

CONFIDENTIAL.

(8215.)

PART XI.

FURTHER CORRESPONDENCE

RESPECTING THE

AFFAIRS OF PERSIA AND ARABIA.

October to December 1902.

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ERRATA.

Page 19, No. 19, line 1. For "Russian troops" read "Persian troops."
Page 175, No. 195, line 5. For "Sultan of Oman" read "Sultan of Muscat."
Page 234, No. 268, line 1. For "your Lordship's telegram" read "your telegram."
Page 234, No. 276, line 6. For "notification" read "ratification."

CONFIDENTIAL.

Further Correspondence respecting the Affairs of Persia and Arabia.

PART XI.

No. 1.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received October 2.)

Sir,

India Office, October 1, 1902.

I AM directed by Lord George Hamilton to acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 23rd September, and to request that you will inform Lord Lansdowne that his Lordship concurs in the proposal to approve Sir Nicholas O'Connor's action as reported in his despatch No. 396 of the 10th September with regard to the Aden Boundary Commission.

I am, &c.
(Signed) HORACE WALPOLE

No. 2.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir N. O'Connor.

(No. 99.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Foreign Office, October 2, 1902.

I HAVE received your despatches Nos. 396 and 411 of the 10th and 18th September, relative to the Aden delimitation.

Your action, as reported in those despatches, and your proposal to bring the matter before the Sultan if necessary, have my approval.

No. 3.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received October 3.)

Sir,

India Office, October 2, 1902.

IN continuation of previous correspondence relating to the Perso-Afghan Boundary dispute, and with special reference to Sir F. Bertie's letter of the 23rd August last, I am directed by Lord George Hamilton to inclose, for Lord Lansdowne's information, a copy of a further telegram from the Viceroy, dated the 30th ultimo.

With reference to the telegram from the Government of India of the 22nd August last, Lord Lansdowne will observe that the Viceroy has now asked the Ameer to agree, as in the case of the previous Seistan Arbitration, that in the event of the Award of the Arbitrator not being accepted by either party, the question should be referred to the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs for final decision.

Lord George Hamilton would suggest that the Persian Government should also be moved to agree to this arrangement.

Subject to Lord Lansdowne's concurrence, Lord George Hamilton proposes to approve the preliminary steps taken by the Government of India.

I am, &c.
(Signed) HORACE WALPOLE.

Inclosure in No. 3.

Government of India to Lord G. Hamilton.

(Telegraphic.) P.

September 30, 1902.

AMEER OF AFGHANISTAN has sent no reply to my letters of the 6th and 17th June and the 31st July on the subjects of invitation to Peshawar, importation of arms, and Seistan Arbitration respectively. I am writing to him a letter of temperate remonstrance. I have proposed that in regard to Seistan Arbitration Ameer should agree, as in 1871, that the Arbitrator's Award, if not accepted, should be referred for the decision of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs (see your telegram of the 5th and mine of the 22nd ultimo). I am suggesting that the Mission should march via Nushki and Chageh to Kilanau on the Helmand, and thence to Seistan. For the post of Arbitrator I propose to appoint McMahon, Revenue Commissioner, Baluchistan. He will have with him a Survey and Intelligence Officer and an Irrigation Engineer to advise on technical points connected with changes in the course of the river and the irrigation channel. His escort might conveniently consist of two companies of infantry and a troop of cavalry. Mission would start in November if Ameer consents. It is too late now for me to meet Ameer in Peshawar in October, whatever may be his reply on larger question.

No. 4.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received October 3.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Lord George Hamilton, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of a telegram from the Resident, Aden, dated the 3rd October, relative to the Aden Delimitation Commission.

India Office, October 3, 1902.

Inclosure in No. 4.

Brigadier-General Maitland to Lord G. Hamilton.

(Telegraphic.) P.

Aden, October 3, 1902.

IN interview with Turkish Commissioners on the 29th September, Wahab reports that he translated Secretary of State's telegram of 20th; that they assured him in reply that they had received no orders, but promised to apply to Yemen authorities at once for them. The Turkish Commissioners gave Wahab their list of nine tribes, which omitted both Yaffai and Aulaki, replacing them by two names which Wahab was unable to identify, but which appear to be those of Haudillebi's (? Haushabi's) sections. The first enumeration of the nine tribes is in inclosure to Lord Granville's despatch of the 13th May, 1873. They were repeated in Lord Lansdowne's despatch of the 15th July, 1901, and they have never, I believe, been disputed.

No. 4*.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received October 4.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Lord George Hamilton, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of a telegram to the Viceroy, dated the 1st October, relative to the Aden Delimitation Commission.

India Office, October 4, 1902.

Inclosure in No. 4*.

Lord G. Hamilton to Government of India.

(Telegraphic.)

India Office, October 1, 1902.

O'CONOR suggests that a field telegraph from Aden to Dthali would be advantageous, also assistance to Wahab by the addition of an extra Commissioner of special experience in dealing with Turkish officials. Latter might be supplied by Foreign Office. Can you comply with these suggestions?

No. 5.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Mr. des Graz.

(No. 48.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Foreign Office, October 4, 1902.

PERSO-AFGHAN frontier.

With reference to my telegram No. 47 of to-day, inquire of the Persian Government whether they agree to refer Award to me for final decision if not accepted.

No. 6

Foreign Office to India Office.

(Confidential.)

Sir,

Foreign Office, October 4, 1902.

I HAVE laid before the Marquess of Lansdowne your letter of the 2nd instant relative to the proposed arbitration on the question of the boundary between Persia and Afghanistan.

The telegram from the Viceroy, of the 30th ultimo, has been repeated to His Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at Tehran; and I am directed by Lord Lansdowne to transmit to you a copy of a telegram which he has addressed to Mr. des Graz,* instructing him to inquire whether the Persian Government agree to the award, if not accepted, being referred to his Lordship for final decision.

Lord Lansdowne concurs in Lord G. Hamilton's proposal to approve the preliminary steps taken by the Government of India in this matter.

I am, &c.

(Signed) T. H. SANDERSON.

No. 7.

Mr. des Graz to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received October 6.)

(No. 125. Confidential.)

My Lord,

Gulahek, August 31, 1902.

I HAD the honour of being received a few days ago by the Shoa-es-Sultaneh, who has been living in retirement at his country seat, Chizeh, since his return to Tehran in the spring.

His Royal Highness spoke with bitterness of the intrigues which, he said, had led to his recall from the Governorship of Fars. Judging by his questions he still takes or affects to take a lively interest in the affairs of that province.

His feelings of resentment towards the Atabeg for his action at that time appear to have in nowise abated. In speaking of the Atabeg, His Royal Highness said that he was "tellement arbitraire qu'il est l'ennemi de l'humanité."

A learned Mollah, who is by way of being a sturdy opponent of the Atabeg, alluded in the course of a recent conversation to the Shoa-es-Sultaneh as being "one of us."

The general tone of His Royal Highness' conversation, on the occasion of my visit, was certainly such as to encourage any previous idea that one might have entertained of His Royal Highness being engaged at the present moment in coquetting with or perhaps even supporting the clerical or any other section of the party inimical to His Highness the Grand Vizier.

I have, &c.

(Signed) C. DES GRAZ.

No. 8.

Mr. des Graz to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received October 6.)

(No. 131. Confidential.)

My Lord,

Gulahek, September 16, 1902.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith a copy of a Memorandum by Mr. Grahame on the political situation in Persia, and the intrigues on foot against the Atabeg-i-Azam.

His Majesty's Resident at Bushire reports that he has been shown a long anonymous letter from Tehran to the most important Mujtahid in Shiraz, and, as some say, in the whole of Persia.

This letter is filled with abuse of the Grand Vizier, and its object appears to be to obtain a pronouncement of opinion from the Mujtahid regarding the steps to be taken to preserve the country from the misfortunes which have overtaken it.

I may mention that the Mushir-ed-Dowleh admitted, in conversation a few days ago to one of my colleagues, that there was some agitation in progress among the clergy.

I have, &c.

(Signed) C. DES GRAS.

Inclosure in No. 8.

Memorandum by Mr. Grahame on Political Situation in Tehran.

THE hints and threats of joint action against the Atabeg and the Shah, thrown out by the clergy of Tehran about the time of His Majesty's departure for Europe, and repeated from time to time during the course of this summer by or for the Mollahs, appear to have been recently realized in an open movement on their part against the Atabeg.

Information communicated to this Legation by Persian informants shows that about a month ago the Mujtahids of Tehran almost unanimously swore on and registered in a Kuran an oath to the effect that they would renounce their allegiance to the Shah should His Majesty bring the Atabeg back with him to Persia. Seyyid Abou Taleb Zinjani is said to have been one of the leading spirits in this movement. Seyyid Abdullah, a prominent Mujtahid, well known to this Legation, is reported not only to have subscribed the oath, but also to have drawn up a long indictment of the Atabeg. It is asserted that the Kuran in question, together with this indictment, were transmitted to the Shah. Others say that His Majesty was made acquainted with the views of the clergy by a telegram addressed by them to him shortly before he went to England.

His Highness Ain-ed-Dowleh, Governor of Tehran, is credited by some people with being the prime instigator of this movement. A hint conveyed indirectly from His Highness Shua-es-Sultaneh to this Legation would show that His Highness was fully cognizant of the clerical movement. The Prince even indicated in the same indirect way a person, Ikbâl ed-Dowleh (a member of the Ghaffary family, to which the Minister of Justice and Moavin-ed-Dowleh, Persian Minister to the Balkan States, belong), whose influence with the clergy might for a consideration be acquired by His Majesty's Legation.

Persian informants further report that a petition against the Atabeg was signed by the majority of the Ministers, and addressed by them to the Shah when His Majesty was at Ostend. Reports tally in excluding from among the signatories the Sipah Salar and the Minister of Justice. They differ as regards the Mushir-ed-Dowleh. Here again the Ain-ed-Dowleh is credited by most people with being the mainspring of the movement. It is further alleged that the Shah, shortly before going to London, applied by telegraph to the Russian Banque des Prêts at Tehran for a further advance of 5,000,000 tomans over and above the 8,000,000 tomans of the second Russian Loan (1892), thus raising the total amount borrowed to 25,000,000 tomans—say, 5,000,000%. This third loan, or increase to the second loan, is said to have been concluded shortly after the Shah's return to Paris. Whether true

or false, the report of this alleged new loan appears to have gained credence in many quarters. In connection with it rumours are rife in the Bazars about a projected new Persian coinage (5-kran pieces) to be minted in Russia.

Accounts, the elaborate detail of which excites some suspicion, are given of the dissensions between the Atabeg and all the other members of the Shah's suite, headed by Hakim-ul-Mulk.

It is evident, even making allowance for Persian exaggeration, that the Atabeg, on his return to Tehran, will have to face a large array of enemies.

A Persian gentleman of some standing in the political world recently enumerated these to a member of this Legation, placing in the front rank the Mujtahids, Ain-ed-Dowleh, Shua-es-Sultaneh, and Firman Firma, who is reported to have been recently summoned by the Shah from exile at Bagdad to meet His Majesty at Enzeli. In the second file, Nizam es Sultaneh and all the other numerous malcontents who, since the return of the Atabeg from Kum in 1898, have been excluded from office and emoluments.

The number of [the Atabeg's adherents, on the other hand, is represented as having dwindled down to a minimum composed of a few immediate followers, such as the Minister of Justice and, perhaps, the Sipah Salar, together with those members of the Tourki Court party whose somewhat lukewarm support has been hitherto secured by bounties.

Surmises as to the order of things which may be expected in the event of the Atabeg's fall differ widely—some people looking for the return of Amin-ed-Dowleh to the "Sadarat," others anticipating a régime in which the nominal hand will be a mere man of straw, while the various Ministers will assume, each in his own Department, an importance of which under the Atabeg's absorption of power they were entirely deprived. It is worth noting that the name of Ala-ul-Mulk is mentioned as a possible successor to the Mushir-ed-Dowleh at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Gulahek, September 12, 1902.

No. 9.

Mr. des Graz to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received October 6.)

(No. 134.)

My Lord,

Gulhek, September 16, 1902.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith the usual monthly summary of events in Persia.

I have, &c.

(Signed) C. DES GRAZ.

Inclosure in No. 9.

Monthly Summary of Events not already reported in Despatches from August 20 to September 16, 1902.

Tehran.—The Sirdar in Mukarram, chief of the Arsenal, died suddenly last month. It is rumoured that the Firman Firma may shortly be recalled from exile. The general opinion is that he is scarcely likely to be permitted to remain in Tehran, but may perhaps be given a southern Government.

Very unfavourable accounts of the Asaf-ed-Dowleh's capacity to govern Shiraz are being received.

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The Kawam-ul-Mulk's two sons, who are now at Shiraz, are expected to arrive at Tehran at the time of the Shah's return, which will probably be about the 25th October.

It is common talk in the bazaars that there is to be a new Persian currency, 5-kran pieces, minted in Russia.

The new Astara-Ardebil road concern is being much puffed by the Tehran papers. It is reported that the Russians have made an offer to buy the concern from the Malik-el-Tujjar, but the offer was refused.

Ispahan.—A party of four Russians, one being an engineer, have arrived, and are said to be going to the Bakhtiari country. They are keeping their movements as secret as possible.

The Zil-es-Sultan is at his shooting-box at Kamishlu, where he was visited by Lord Herschell, who is travelling in Persia, and who was much pleased with his reception.

Roads are very unsafe to the south and east of Ispahan owing to the depredation of the Kashgai tribe, who have broken all bounds. Two caravans on the Yezd road have been looted near Gupa and Naogombaz respectively, and 20,000 tomans worth of goods and money have been taken.

The harvest has been generally good, and prices of food-stuffs remain low.

Nothing of interest has been received from Tabreez, Resht, Kerman or Kermanshah.

Asterabad.—Information has been received of a Russian, M. Kanilkoff, being sent from Askabad via Kuchan and Bujnurd to Bundergez to inspect the carriage road north of the Gurkan River. A guard of mounted men has gone from Asterabad to Gumbat-i-Kamus to meet him.

A force of twenty Cossacks and mounted men are ordered to patrol round the town at a radius of 1 farsakh to preserve order.

Shiraz.—His Majesty's courier was robbed and beaten by a party of twenty-six Kashgais some 75 miles north of Shiraz.

Despatches and letters were cut open, but given back when seen to contain no money. The messenger's personal property was subsequently restored at the instance of the Governor.

Several other robberies of caravans, and also of the Persian Post, have taken place. It is surmised that the Kashgais have been instigated to commit these robberies in order to bring discredit on the Asaf-ed-Dowleh.

The Kawam-ul-Mulk has arrived in Shiraz. A message has been received from the Atabeg in Europe that he is to leave for Kerbela in twenty days' time. His presence is causing embarrassment to the Governor.

The village of Surmak on the main road to Bushire, south of Abadeh, is said to have been looted by 1,000 soldiers, who were *en route* to Shiraz.

Bander Abbas.—Several shocks of earthquake were felt between the 9th and 17th July in Naiband, Bander Abbas, and Kishm. Most of the people have gone into camp. The Vice-Consulate and other houses have been damaged and two lives lost.

The Russian steamer "Trouver" left here on the 16th July with 400 cases of gum for Odessa.

Fifty armed men arrived from Bushire on the 31st July *en route* to Minab for the protection of that place, where several shops were broken open by Bashkirdis.

Bushire.—The Russian steamer "Trouver" returned from Bussorah on the 13th July, and left with 1,000 bags of tobacco for Syrian ports.

The Russian and German Consuls have left for Shiraz.

M. von Rosebrook, the Mudir of Customs at Bander Abbas, arrived on the 5th August.

Mohammerah.—Ferhan-el-Assad has raided the Anafijeh and captured the Sheikh.

The epidemic amongst the Beni Truf has subsided, but it is said there have been some 300 deaths.

About 300 horses for Bombay have arrived. It is rumoured that the Turks will reduce the duty, in which case most horses would in future be shipped from Bussorah. The Muez-es-Sultaneh has been appointed a Field-Marshal under the title of Sardar Arfa.

On the 19th August he left for Gusba, at the mouth of the Shat-el-Arab, to visit the Sheikh Mubarek, of Koweit, and returned shortly after.

The Muzaffar-el-Mulk has arrived at Khorembad to restore order in Luristan, and has arrested Fazal and Assad Khan, of the Saewand Lurs, and appointed Mehr-Ali-Khan in their place.

The Beni Truf and Beni Salih, both sections of the Hawizah Arabs, west of the

Karun, had a fight recently, in which the former were defeated, owing to their having twenty horses, with the loss of several leading men.

The rice crop at Hawizah is good, and prices have fallen 40 per cent. in Mohammerah.

Meshed.—The telegraph line from Meshed to Seistan has reached Khaf, and is expected to reach Birjand during September.

M. Molitor, late Customs officer, Seistan, has left Meshed for Mohammerah.

Great activity in trading of all sorts is being displayed by the Russian Bank.

The arrival of a Russian engineer is reported near Pul-i-Katun. His destination is believed to be Seistan.

The Russian Colony in Meshed is increasing its numbers nearly every week.

Seistan.—A second regiment, the Karai Regiment, has been sent to Seistan to replace the Kain Regiment garrisoning the place, and in a bad state of discipline.

Though the Minister for Foreign Affairs and the Sipar Salar at Tehran assert that this regiment is to replace the Kain Regiment, no orders have been received by the Governor of Khorassan for the recall of the latter.

The Afghan Boundary Commissioner left Persian territory on the 15th June and joined the Akhundzada, in Chikansur, since when everything on the Afghan-Seistan frontier has been quiet.

On the 19th July the Yamin-u-Nizam paid a visit to the Akhundzada at Kaleh Kang, in Afghan territory, presumably to atone for his former incivility.

A new escort, bringing their families with them, is being sent to Seistan to relieve the Consular Guard.

They are accompanying Captain Plunkett, who has been deputed to Seistan as Vice-Consul.

The Russian Consul is still in communication with Khan Mahomed (Damini), and recently sent him a letter by a Customs employé at Kuh-Malik-i-Siah, a nephew of Dad Khuda (Baluch), who was arrested last year with letters on his person from M. Miller.

There is still a scarcity of water, the Helmund being very low. Wells have been dug, but the water is too salt to drink.

The Seistan wind is blowing this year with great violence, the maximum rate per hour having reached 90 miles.

Herat.—The Governor and the Commander-in-chief are said to be loyally co-operating in making a careful survey and report of the fortifications and armament of Herat. On the Amir's orders, steps are being taken to renew the grain stores at Herat, where two years' supplies are kept, and at the various frontier posts, where mounted levies of 100 men are kept at each of the following places: Maruchak, Murghab, Kalanao, Chihil Dukhteran, Zulfikar, Kafir Kaleh, Akan district, and Hach-Chiran.

The Herat Agent reports that the Russians complained to the Governor of Herat about the small quantity of water that reached them in the Hari Rud; but, on being informed by the Governor that the river was abnormally low, they desisted from making further complaints. There is such a lack of water that the agricultural districts of Herat have suffered severely.

Supplies of sheep, corn, flour, rice, &c., are believed to be reaching Russian territory by the connivance of the Governor, who uses the prohibition of export as a means of obtaining bribes.

There are further accounts of the discontent of the soldiers at the price of wheat, referred to in last month's summary, and they are openly abusing the Governor and Commander-in-chief in the streets.

Central Asia.—The Russians are making a road from Kushk towards Islim, which lies some 15 miles to the north-west of the Kushk Post.

There appears to be a question of rails being laid to Islim and some buildings being repaired there.

It has been notified by the Acting Russian Consul-General at Meshed that he has received orders from his Government to the effect that foreigners can in future travel freely in all parts of Trans-Caspia and Russian Turkestan, except the following localities: Termez; Kerki; the frontier posts on the Amudaria, Chikishliar, and Chatly; the posts on the Atrek River; on the line Kushk, Ak-Robat, and the Merv-Kushk Railway.

Work has been resumed on the Kushk-Chihil-Dukhteran Railway.

There has recently been an inspection of the Kushk Post and garrison.

Some species of wire entanglement has been erected round the fort at the Kushk Post.

Between the 21st July and the 24th August the following movements of troops and stores are reported to have taken place:—

One thousand three hundred and fifty-three men passed through Askabad, travelling east.

A special train of twenty-three waggons, containing gunners, sixteen small guns, ammunition and warlike stores; also twenty waggons of rails, ten of stores, and six of ammunition, passed through Askabad, travelling east.

No troops or stores passed through Askabad travelling west.

Through Krasnovodsk forty-six men passed eastwards, and seventy-one embarked for Russia.

Five hundred and eighty waggons of supplies and 170 boxes of ammunition passed eastwards, of which 220 waggons were for Turkestan.

The Nadejde Company has contracted to convey 440,000 bags of supplies to Tashkend this year.

(Signed) H. D. NAPIER, Major,
Military Attaché.

Gulhek, September 16, 1902.

No. 10.

Sir C. Scott to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received October 6.)

(No. 318.)

My Lord,

St. Petersburg, October 1, 1902.

THE Russian press telegrams report that the Shah of Persia, who was detained for twenty-four hours at Baku by a slight indisposition, has now crossed the frontier and returned to his dominions.

I have not been able to ascertain that any important business was transacted by His Majesty or the Grand Vizier with the Emperor or with Count Lamsdorff during the Shah's very limited stay at Kursk, and the general impression here seems to be that nothing took place there beyond the exchange of complimentary speeches, and of assurances on both sides of a desire for cordial relations and the prosperity of both countries.

The fact that M. Witte was not present at Kursk makes it extremely unlikely that any further loan engagements were contracted at Kursk, or that any further development of the Tariff question was seriously discussed, as Count Lamsdorff has always professed his inability to deal with matters of this kind, which he is obliged to leave to the Minister of Finance and Commerce.

It has been rumoured that, when in Paris, the Shah succeeded through some agency in obtaining M. Witte's consent to make him a further advance of money, but I am not inclined to attach much faith to this rumour, and there is no indication here which would tend to confirm it.

The Persian Minister has not returned yet to St. Petersburg from his attendance on the Shah's journey.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CHARLES S. SCOTT.

No. 11.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received October 6.)

Sir,

India Office, October 3, 1902.

I AM directed by Lord George Hamilton to request that you will lay before the Marquess of Lansdowne the inclosed copy of a Secret letter from the Government of India, dated the 4th September last, and inclosure, in which it is suggested that an attempt should be made to obtain from the Sultan of Muscat the sale or lease of Gwadar to the Khan of Khelat.

Gwadar, with a few miles of coast appertaining to it, has been in the possession of the Sultans of Muscat since the end of the eighteenth century, when it was granted by the Khan of Khelat to the rebel son of Imaum Ahmed of Muscat on the condition that he should always defend this place against the enemies of Khelat. It is entirely

surrounded by Baluch territory, and since its cession to Muscat more than one unsuccessful attempt has been made by the Baluchis to recover it.

As Lord Lansdowne is aware, the Sultan of Muscat has bound himself by a formal undertaking given in the year 1891 not to part with the dominions of Muscat and Oman or any of their dependencies, save to the British Government; but, so far as Lord George Hamilton is aware, no such undertaking has been given to any other Power, which would give it the right to object to the proposed sale to Khelat.

There remains for consideration the bearing of the Anglo-French Declaration of the 10th March, 1862, in which both Powers engaged reciprocally to respect the independence of the Sultan of Muscat.

It appears to Lord George Hamilton that, while this Declaration might preclude either party to it from acquiring practical sovereignty over any portion of Oman proper, it in no way precludes a friendly negotiation with His Highness with a view to an arrangement between him and the Khan of Khelat, by which in return for a sufficient consideration Gwadar should be restored to its original possessor.

In connection with this question I am, however, to refer you to the papers forwarded with my covering letter of the 25th March last.

Lord George Hamilton will be glad to be favoured with Lord Lansdowne's views on the proposal of the Government of India, which, unless there is any objection on grounds of general policy, appears to him to deserve favourable consideration.

I am, &c.
(Signed) HORACE WALPOLE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 11.

Government of India to Lord G. Hamilton.

(Secret.)

My Lord,

Simla, September 4, 1902.

IN connection with the endeavours which have recently been made to check the importation of arms and ammunition into Persia, our attention has been drawn to the position of Gwadar, as a port through which arms can be imported into Baluch-Makran and the interior of Persia.

2. As your Lordship is aware, Gwadar has been in possession of the Rulers of Muscat since the close of the 18th century, when it was conferred upon Saiyid Sultan, a Muscat refugee, by the Khan of Khelat.

In 1891, at the instance of our Political Agent at Muscat, the Sultan issued an order prohibiting the import or export of arms and ammunition to or from Gwadar territory. We have, however, reason to believe that this prohibition has not always been observed, and we have recently found it necessary to call the Sultan's attention to the matter, and to advise him to direct his representative at Gwadar to confiscate all arms and ammunition which may be landed on the coast within Muscat jurisdiction. This advice the Sultan readily undertook to follow.

3. In reporting the result of his communication to the Sultan, our Political Agent at Muscat observed that *prima facie*, the prohibitory Proclamation issued by the Sultan in 1891, and his present action in enforcing the prohibition, seemed to be incompatible with the terms of Article XI of the French Treaty with Muscat of 1844-1846; but that, as no objection had been raised by the French to the former notification, it appeared unnecessary to anticipate that any would be raised in the present case. In order to obviate any difficulty which might arise in this connection, we are of opinion that the withdrawal of Gwadar from Muscat control and its inclusion within the sphere of our predominant influence is very desirable. Signs have not been wanting of a tendency on the part of other Powers to take an interest in Gwadar and its vicinity, and we have authorized Major Cox to inform the Sultan that the British Government would certainly not permit Gwadar, surrounded as it is by a territory under their control, to be in any way associated with another Power. This warning may be sufficient to prevent the Sultan from entertaining any such proposal so long as our relations with him remain as friendly as they are at present. But it is conceivable that the Sultan or his successor may hereafter prove unfaithful to his obligations, and, in any case, should France demand to post a representative at Gwadar, the claim might, under present conditions, be difficult to resist, and an embarrassing situation might arise.

4. For these reasons we are disposed to make an attempt, through His Highness the Khan of Khelat, to obtain the cession of Gwadar on reasonable terms. The offer might, we think, be ostensibly made by the Khan on his own behalf; but the price, if the Sultan

accepted the offer, would be paid from Indian revenues. We have ascertained from Major Cox that the annual revenue which the Sultan derives from Gwadar is about 22,200 dollars, while the cost of administration is probably little, if at all, in excess of 1,000 rupees a-year. The net value of Gwadar to the Sultan, at fifteen years' purchase, may, therefore, be taken at about 4½ lakhs of rupees.* We consider that this sum, or, if it were arranged to take a lease of the place instead of purchasing outright, an annual payment of 30,000 rupees to 40,000 rupees, would not be too high a price to pay as an insurance against any foreign attempt to obtain a footing on the Baluch-Makran Coast, and we commend the suggestion to your Lordship's favourable consideration.

5. We have, of course, taken no steps at present to sound the Sultan as to his willingness to part with this portion of his territory, and it is possible that the offer might meet with a refusal. It is also possible that, if the offer were accepted, exception might be taken to the transaction by the French Government on the ground that, although the rendition would be made nominally to the Khan of Kelat, it would practically result in the extension of British influence over territory which has been in the possession of Muscat, the independence of the Ruler of which was guaranteed by the Anglo-French Declaration of 1862. But we can see nothing derogatory to the Sultan's independence in his selling back to the Khan a piece of land the transfer of which from Kalat to Muscat was a mere accident, and which consists only of a few miles of coast-line, entirely surrounded, on the land side, by Kelat territory. Indeed the independence of the Sultan would appear to be vindicated, rather than impaired, by his ability to part with such an outlying possession, forming no part of Muscat proper, and not even belonging to the Arabian Peninsula. We apprehend, therefore, that an objection based on the Declaration of 1862 could scarcely be sustained.

We have, &c.
(Signed) CURZON.
A. P. PALMER.
T. RALEIGH.
E. R. ELLES.
A. T. ARUNDEL.
DENZIL IBBETSON.
J. F. FINLAY.

Inclosure 2 in No. 11.

Proclamation issued by his Highness Saiyid Feysal, dated the 21st Rejeb, 1308 (March 3, 1891).

(Translation.)

LET it be known by this writing that we have forbidden the import into our territory of Gwadar and its dependencies† of arms and ammunition; nothing of the kind is to be landed there or taken thence to any place whatever. Take heed of this, and any one transgressing this prohibition will be liable to punishment. Written and promulgated this 21st Rejeb 1308=3rd March, 1891.

No. 12.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received October 6.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Lord George Hamilton, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of a despatch to the Government of India, Secret, dated the 26th ultimo, and inclosures, relative to the question of the appointment of a Native Agent at Bampur and of a Persian Consul at Quetta.

India Office, October 4, 1902.

* 22,200 dollars = 31,080 rupees, minus, say, 1,080 rupees for expenses of administration = 30,000 rupees
x 15 = 4,50,000 rupees.
† Such as Pishkan.

Inclosure 1 in No. 12.

Lord G. Hamilton to Government of India.

(Secret.)

My Lord,

India Office, September 26, 1902.

WITH reference to your Excellency's letter, Secret, of the 22nd May last, in regard to the objection of the Persian Government to the appointment of a Native Agent of your Government to reside at Bampur, I forward herewith copies of letters which have passed between this Office and the Foreign Office on the subject.

2. Your Excellency will perceive that His Majesty's Government are indisposed at the present moment to press the demand on the Persian Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE HAMILTON.

Inclosure 2 in No. 12.

India Office to Foreign Office, June 19, 1902.

[Already printed.]

Inclosure 3 in No. 12.

Foreign Office to India Office, September 18, 1902.

[Already printed.]

No. 13.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received October 6.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Lord George Hamilton, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of a letter from the Resident at Aden, dated the 3rd September, and inclosures, relative to the affairs of South-west Arabia.

A copy has been sent to the Intelligence Division, War Office.

India Office, October 6, 1902.

Inclosure 1 in No. 13.

Political Resident, Aden, to India Office.

(Confidential.)

Aden Residency, September 3, 1902.

COPY of Colonel Wahab's Secret despatch, dated Camp Dthala, the 30th August last, forwarded, with compliments, to the Secretary, Political and Secret Department, India Office, London.

(For Political Resident),
(Signed) R. S. POTTINGER, Captain.

Note.—A copy of this despatch has been forwarded to the Bombay Government.

Inclosure 2 in No. 13.

Colonel Wahab to Government of India.

(Secret.)

Sir,

Camp Dthala, August 30, 1902.

IN forwarding the accompanying report I have the honour to invite attention to the following points:—

The activity at Mokha suggests an effort at the resuscitation of that port and strengthening of Turkish power in Southern Yemen.

The import of arms appears to be quite unchecked, and going on at such a pace that all Arabia will soon be filled with modern rifles.

There appears to be a well-defined and considerable tract in which the Imam is supreme, and no attempt is made to impose Turkish authority.

The Turkish Mission with the Imam is well known to emanate direct from Constantinople. Whatever its ostensible object, the prevailing opinion in these parts is that it is really meant to counterbalance British influence, and to further the banding together of all Mussulmans against the English.

The Embassy at Tehran may be able to furnish information regarding the alleged communications between the Shah of Persia and the Imam.

Copies of this letter and of the report are being sent to the Resident at Aden, and to the Government of Bombay.

I have, &c.

(Signed) R. A. WAHAB, Colonel,
Commissioner, Aden Boundary Commission.

Inclosure 3 in No. 13.

Report by Seyyid Hassan.

SEYYID HASSAN, of Dthala, has given the following account of his journey to the country of the Imam:—

Leaving Dthala in May, went to Sheikh Othmam; there found Muhammad ad Dthabali, who is brother-in-law and Secretary to Muhammad Nasir Mukhbil, and has been sent down by him as a spy. Arrested him, and took him to the guard. They said they had no orders to take such prisoners, and referred me to Aden. Accordingly took him in to Aden, lodged him in the house of the Amir of Dthala's Agents, and reported the matter to the Residency Office.

Mr. Muncherji told me to keep him where he was until he referred the matter. Next day Muhammad Ahmad, on pretence of going to the masjid to pray, made his escape.

Interviewed at the Residency Office by Captain Pottinger, who gave me 25 rupees for travelling expenses.

Sailed in a dhow belonging to Ibrahim Kadu, a Borah merchant, of Cutch, to Mokha—a day and a night's journey. At Mokha the landing is very bad, very shallow, and a rocky bottom. Large vessels must anchor about 10 miles out, but buggalows can approach to within about 2 miles of the shore by following a narrow rocky channel. A lighthouse has been built 3 or 4 miles out, and from it an iron jetty is being constructed towards the shore; about 400 yards of it are completed. The work is in the hands of an Italian. It is intended to clear a channel so that vessels may come into the jetty.

The landing is now to be made in small boats. Spent six days at Mokha with the Kaïmakam (Turkish official), Kaïd Ahmed Kassim-al-Hujariya, who is a former pupil of mine, and son of the Kaïmakam of Hujariya, west of Taiz. There are 800 Turkish troops (two taburs) in Mokha under a Circassian named Ahmad Pasha. They came about three months ago, before which time there was only a troop of cavalry in Mokha. The only important export from Mokha is coffee from Ramada. All other trade is stopped through fear of the desert tribes, the Mashalaha, the Hamul, and others.

From Mokha went in a fishing boat to Fazah, at the mouth of the Wadi Zebid. Good depth of water near the shore, but a mangrove growth makes landing difficult. Plenty of drinking water in the Wadi bed, just below the surface. French rifles from Jibuti are landed daily, and smuggled inland past Zebid to Jerahi, 6 miles further east. At Zebid is a garrison of 800 men (two taburs).

After a day at Fazah, went by caravan to Durehmi, eight hours north-east. There is an alternative road along the shore to Hodeda, but the country is desert. From Durehmi to Bet-al-Fakih, and stayed there four or five days. Bet-al-Fakih is the chief centre of the Zaranik tribe, and has a Turkish garrison of 200. It consists of about 500 houses, mostly low, and mud built. The two chief Sheikhs of the Zaranik are Husen Shantah and Muhammah Shantah. The former lives in Bet-ul-Fakih, and has submitted to the Turks, the latter at Al Huseniya and is in rebellion against the Turks. The Kaïmakam of Bet-ul-Fakih is a Seyid. He had newspapers from Constantinople containing news about the Aden Boundary Commission. He and the other Turks made many inquiries about affairs at Dthala and Kataba, and the strength and position of the English. They gave it as their opinion that the Boundary question will be settled in the month of Rajab (October).

They said there is a garrison of sixteen taburs (6,000 men) at Beirut, and that there too much anxiety is felt about possible hostilities with England. They say they are prepared to fight the English on land, but cannot face them on the sea.

From Bet-al-Fakih to Al Mansuria, four hours, a Seyid Settlement marking the limit between the Zaranik and the Abus (Absi). It is in the Tehama (low country), the mountains being about six hours east. From Al Mansuria to Marawa, a town like Lahej. Thence to Hodeda, and stayed ten days with the Haj Muhammad Ahmad, a native of India, and Assistant to the British Vice-Consul. The garrison of Hodeda is about 2,000 (five taburs). The Mutassarif (Deputy Governor) is Muhammad Arif. Attended a religious festival and met several Turks. Again much talk of a possible conflict with the English. Saud Pasha, the Grand Wazir is said to be all powerful at Constantinople, even to the extent of wilfully misinterpreting the Sultan's orders. They say reinforcements are moving from Beirut to Baghdad.

During my stay at Hodeda reliefs arrived from Constantinople to the number of eight taburs; they were destined for various places, Sana, Taiz, Mokha, Loheiya, Jabal Hajar, &c.

From Hodeda to Dthubai, 30 miles north-east with a caravan; stayed two days. A troop of Turkish cavalry is stationed there.

Thence via Der Atta, Kanans, and Zuhara, to Loheiya. Stayed six days with a Seyid. There is a Turkish Kaïmakam and one buluk (eighty men). Considerable trade in salt, cloth, coffee, waras, &c.

Hired a donkey and went about 20 miles up the coast to Abs or Ramf, a trading port under the Imam. There are no Turks between Loheiya in the south, and Jezan on the north. The latter port marks the limit between the Imam's dominions and the country of the Asir. Sheikh Hajji Kaddash is Sheikh of Abs under the Imam. He has 400 soldiery. About last May or June a Turkish force from Lohiya tried to seize Abs. They were surrounded by Arabs of the Beni Merwan, Beni Hassan, Abs, and Katuba tribes, and two buluks (160 men) were cut up, and 150 Arabs killed. The Turks retreated, leaving a small gun in the hands of the Arabs. Corpses were still lying about in the country near Abs. There is a considerable export from Abs of rice, coffee, waras, cocoanuts, madder, &c.

From Abs went about 20 miles further up the coast to Medi, another trading port, a small town in a hollow behind a hill which shelters it from the seaward side. Buggalows can come close in, but larger vessels must anchor about a mile out on account of the rocks. Stayed six days with Yahiya, surnamed Saif al Daula, son of the Imam. A year ago an Indian merchant at Medi was found to be intriguing with the Turks, and was executed. Arms from Jibuti are imported on a very large scale. Abu Arish to the north was formerly a flourishing town, now in ruins, owing to constant fighting between the Turks and the Asir. One buluk (eighty men) stationed there.

From Medi went with a caravan north-east through the country of the Masarah to Samtah, a town of the Bel Harith, as big as Lahej, on the Wadi Dthamad. Plain country, well wooded with palms, madder, &c. All peaceful under the Imam.

Thence north-east on a camel furnished me by the Imam's official at Samtah to Dtheyat, two hours, a town in a ravine at the foot of Jabal Urr, thence to Bakim, plateau land, well wooded, numerous date and cocoanut palms, grapes, ginger, saffron, madder, white jowari, wheat, and quantities of rice, plentiful rainfall, and temperate climate, numbers of good horses, a very rich country, the Hind of Yemen, no other part of which is like it. The Imam will defend it to the last against the Turks.

From Bakim to Dthahian, and thence four hours to Sada. There stayed sixteen days with Muhammad-ibn-Mutawakkil, a nephew of the Imam. He presented me with a handsome robe and turban.

Sada lies as high as Sana and has a similar climate, and all the intervening

country is on the same level. The town of Sada is in three parts, Mosta, Jarban, and Al Khor, all within one wall. Apart, and outside the wall is Sumara, the Imam's residence, a group of ten stone towers. There is a strong brick fort containing a great quantity of treasure, and, it is said, ten or twelve cannon. There are 2,000 Arab soldiery, many of whom are armed with magazine and Martini rifles. The town is well ordered. A tenth of all produce is paid to the Imam. Daily prayers are offered up for deliverance from the Turks. No coffee is grown near Sada, but an abundance of wheat, barley, grapes and other fruits. About an hour to the east is an iron mine.

From Sada went on a horse furnished me by Muhammad-ibn-Mutawakkil, via Safra, Amashiya, Harf Sufian, and Khaiwan to Kafat Udthar, about 50 miles. There found the Imam, Seyid Muhammad Hamid-ad-Din. Stayed a month with the Imam's Wazir, Seyid Ahmad-ibn-Muthanna. This man is a native of Ad Dhubiyat, near Dtahal; about ten years ago he went to Aden. He is a very powerful man, and took employment at some works at a rupee a-day for about two years. His foot was crushed by a blasting accident. He was treated in hospital, and given 200 dollars on discharge. He still wears an appliance with which his foot was fitted. He joined the Imam and, as he is a clever man, knowing English and Turkish, the Imam has made him his Wazir, and has given him his sister in marriage, by whom he has two children.

Kafat Udthar is a village of about 200 houses. The only building of any size is the Imam's tower, built to bar the road to the Turks. It stands apart from the village, and the forces are encamped round it in four divisions. There are about 4,000, with 2,000 horses and six guns.

An armistice till October has been concluded with the Turks, and there is now a Turkish Mission with the Imam. This Mission arrived in Kafat Udthar in July, and consists of four Seyids, with an escort of forty mounted men. These are accompanied by an influential Sheikh named Muhammad Baleli, formerly a State prisoner in Sana. The four Seyids are: Seyid Muhammad-ibn-Abi Al Huda, Seyid Abd Ar Rasul-ibn-Fadhl, a native of Belhaf, who some fifteen or twenty years ago got into trouble with the British Government, by intriguing to get the Turks to occupy Belhaf; Seyid Abd Al Kadir, of Bussorah; Seyid Abd Ah Rahman, of Hums in Syria.

The object of the Mission is to make an Agreement with the Imam by which he shall remain in possession of the country now in his hands, and shall co-operate with the Turks in resisting the English at all points. They argue on the ground of their common religion, and say that the English are gradually advancing, that they have acquired a footing in the south, and intend to push on to Sana, Sada, Mecca, Syria, and eventually Stamboul, and so destroy the power of Islam.

The Imam refuses to agree, saying that he does not regard the Turks as true Moslems, that they are addicted to the vices most strictly forbidden by the Law of Islam, and that their rule is characterized by oppression and injustice. He refuses to acknowledge the Khalifate of the Sultan, and asks why he remains shut up in his palace in sloth and indifference, not interesting himself in his people nor travelling to see other Governments, not inquiring what is going on in the world. He contrasts the justice and peace of British rule, quotes an instance of a wealthy Jew in Aden who has amassed riches, and is allowed to enjoy them in peace. He shows letters from the Shah of Persia in which the latter speaks of the justice of British rule, and the peace and prosperity which it ensures.

The Shah and the Imam being both Shiah there are bonds of sympathy between them and they are in frequent communication. The Shah sends the Imam many presents. Among the Zedis the feeling against the Turks is so strong that were the Imam to make terms they would dethrone him and elect a new Imam.

The Imam is 60 years old; he received me kindly, and on my going, presented me with a robe and other clothes and a fine donkey.

Arab astrologers declare that Turkish rule in Yemen will cease thirty years after its introduction. This period will elapse next Moharram, that is in seven or eight months.

Leaving Kafat Udthar, travelled to Sana, and there stayed a day with Awadth Ishak, a Jew, agent of Banin of Aden. There is great excitement in Sana about the English at Dthala; every movement of a convoy from Aden is exaggerated into preparations for an invasion of Yemen, and it is believed that any advance from Dthala would throw all Yemen into ferment.

From Sana went via Zurajiya to Dthamar; the only reason why this route is not generally used instead of the circuitous one via Walan and Mabar is fear of the Arab tribesmen. Halted at Dthamar-al-Karn, avoiding Dthamar, for fear of the Turks. 400

Turkish troops in Dthamar. Thence to Jewish village of Khao, just north of Yerim. Then to Riab, or Bet Ali Ubad, and visited Sheikh Saleh-bin-Ali Yahya Ubad. He was formerly chief Sheikh of the country about Sedda, but is in rebellion against the Turks, who seized his home and property at Massana, near Sedda, two years ago. He killed a Turkish Yuzbashi a month or two ago, and took his horse and donkey.

Thence via the Nakil Sumara, Mukhadir, and Suk as Suwaik to Ibb. The Kaïmakam of Ibb, Muhammad Izzat, employs Seyid Ali Muta on 20 dollars a-month to travel about the country maligning the English. All the country about Ibb is in the hands of the Dthu Muhammad clan of the Zedis. Sheikhs Abdul Wahid, and Ali Sanan of Ibb, and Sheikhs Muhammad Mulhi, Kassim Kaid, and Abdalla Ali-ibn-Ali Basha of Uden are all in prison in Sana charged with collusion with the Zedis. About three weeks ago the Zedis under Sheikh Saleh-bin-Ali carried off a caravan near Makhnuk Metham, south of Ibb, soon after they captured another, but Muhammad Ali Bey, Commandant of Ibb, came down on them, and recaptured the caravan, killing 100 and taking 40 prisoners, but losing 80 killed.

From Mahatta, near Ibb, went south to Husan Ras, at the head of the Nakil Maharras, and visited Nakib Ali-bin-Mush-id-al-Aufan, a leader of the Dthu Muhammad. Thence by Jabal Heshu, down the Tiban Valley, through the Ahmadi country, and up the Azrki Valley to Dthala. This route was chosen in order to give a wide berth to the Turkish officials of Kataba, to whom I am well known. Report ends.

(Signed) J. K. TOD, Major.

Camp Dthala, August 30, 1902.

Note.—Seyyid Hassan is about 40 years old, very intelligent, and a keen traveller; in accepting his information, some allowance has to be made for his bias and desire to please. He travelled with two servants and a baggage donkey. He practices medicine and astrology. When among the Turks he went by the name of Seyid Abdallah of one place or another in Yemen.

This journey may be followed on the Intelligence Division, War Office, Map of South-West Arabia, 1893, scale 1 inch to 10 miles. The account enables some additions and modifications to be made on the map.

(Signed) J. K. TOD, Major.

Camp Dthala, August 29, 1902.

No. 14.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received October 6.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Lord George Hamilton, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of a telegram from the Viceroy, dated the 4th October, relative to the Perso-Afghan frontier dispute.

India Office, October 6, 1902.

Inclosure in No. 14.

Government of India to Lord G. Hamilton.

(Telegraphic.) P.

October 4, 1902.

ACTING Consul-General at Meshed reports on 1st instant that troops left that place on the 18th ultimo for Seistan, and that this movement and alleged dispatch of a regiment from Kerman to Seistan were subject of complaint by the Afghan Agent, who informed him that on the 27th ultimo he had advised Ameer and the Herat authorities to send 1,000 additional Afghan troops to Chakansur. Whyte was informed from Tehran that troops were proceeding from Meshed in relief, but in relief of what troops was not stated; he says that Persian troops might still be stopped at Birjand and that Herat authorities may move their troops at once to Chakansur unless he can assure them or the Afghan Agent that the Persian troops will not proceed to Seistan.

Pending arbitration it seems very desirable that Persian Government should be moved not to complicate the situation by increasing their troops in Seistan. On 23rd September Benn, telegraphing from Camp Kwaja Ahmed, reported waters to have reached Seistan bund and passed his camp on previous days in good volume. In this case autumn sowings should commence and spring harvest be assured. Water famine, which has been partly the cause of the trouble, is therefore apparently past, and situation should be easier pending arbitration. Benn has marched along the river from the Seistan bund to Miankanja district.

(Repeated to Tehran.)

No. 15.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received October 6.)

Sir,

India Office, October 6, 1902.

I AM directed by Lord George Hamilton to request you to draw Lord Lansdowne's special attention to the telegram from the Governor-General of the 4th (received 5th) October, which was forwarded to you on the 6th instant.

His Lordship has directed me to urge the necessity of endeavouring to restrain the Persian Government from taking any action which would have the effect of complicating the situation in Seistan.

As Lord Lansdowne is aware, the Ameer of Afghanistan has not yet replied to the offer of the Indian Government to arbitrate; and Lord George Hamilton apprehends that any reinforcement of the Persian troops in Seistan would seriously diminish the probability of His Highness accepting the proposal.

I am, &c.

(Signed) HORACE WALPOLE.

No. 16.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Mr. des Graz.

(No. 49.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Foreign Office, October 6, 1902.

WITH reference to the telegram from the Viceroy of the 4th October, relative to the Perso-Afghan frontier:

You should warn the Persian Government that, pending arbitration, they must not complicate the situation by increasing their forces in Seistan.

No. 17.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received October 7.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Lord George Hamilton, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of inclosure in a letter from the Foreign Secretary, Simla, dated the 4th September, relative to the acquisition of property in Muscat by foreign subjects.

India Office, October 6, 1902.

Inclosure in No. 17.

Government of India to Major Cox.

Sir,

Simla, August 28, 1902.

WHEN you were in Simla, last month, you inquired whether any objection could be raised to the issue of an order by the Sultan to the effect that the acquisition of property in Muscat by foreign subjects will not be recognized unless it is registered by the Sultan (or by the officer deputed by him) before the transfer of the property takes place. You observed that, if such an order were issued, the Sultan would know

beforehand when the transfer of any sacred or religious property was contemplated, and might take steps accordingly, e.g., in the case of foreclosure on a mortgage he could pay off the mortgage himself, if he so desired.

You also inquired whether, with a view to prevent the sale by British Indian traders of houses or other property to French or Russian purchasers, it would be possible for you, as British Consul, to issue an order to the effect that sales of immovable property in Muscat by British subjects will not be recognized unless registered in the British Consular Court before the actual transfer.

2. In reply to your inquiries, I am directed to convey the following instructions:—

With respect to the first proposal, it is clear that Article V of the Treaty of 1891 with Muscat does not supersede the ordinary rule of private international law, under which transfer of immovable property is governed by the *lex loci*. It merely permits British subjects to acquire or alienate property by any mode legally open to the Sultan's subjects. There is no objection to the issue by the Sultan of a law requiring registration for the purpose of giving him notice of the contemplated acquisition of property by foreigners. It is not, however, clear from the terms of your reference whether the precise effect of the proposed order has been properly understood. It is not known whether the local law in Muscat as to the alienation of "wakf" property may be; but, assuming it to be the same as in India, the issue of the proposed order would not, it is considered, enable the money-lender to sell up any such property which is not alienable at present. On the other hand, if the local law permits the alienation of "wakf" property, and if the Sultan sees a pious duty in saving such property from passing to others than Mahomedans, the issue of the proposed order will no doubt give him an opportunity of performing that duty.

3. As regards the second question, it is not clear by what authority a dispute between a British subject on the one part, and a French or Russian subject on the other, is decided. By Article XIII of the Treaty of 1891, the Sultan has divested himself of jurisdiction; but by Article 6 of the Order in Council, dated the 4th November, 1867, His Britannic Majesty's Consul is invested with jurisdiction only in disputes arising between British subjects. If the idea is simply to define the limits of diplomatic redress, there is no objection to your declaring that you will not exert yourself in the case of any transfer to any subject of any other Christian State, unless such transfer has, previously to its completion, been notified to you.

Furthermore, under Article 1 of the same Order, you might frame a rule for the peace, order, and good government of His Majesty's subjects, prohibiting them, under penalty of fine, from transferring property without registration, and could give some effect to such a rule by declining to recognize such a transfer in the exercise of your jurisdiction under Article 6. It would not, however, be permissible for you to refuse, in the terms proposed, to recognize the transfer in any dispute in which the French or Russian transferee was concerned. You could not, for example, sell a building which had been so transferred in execution of a decree against the British transferer, or insist on administering it for the benefit of his legal representatives. In such case, you would be bound to recognize the transfer, unless the French or Russian authorities could be induced to enforce a similar rule for their own subjects.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. B. WOOD.

Under-Secretary to Government of India.

No. 18.

Memorandum by Sir A. Hardinge respecting the Turco-Persian Commercial Agreement.

(Sir N. O'Connor's despatch No. 145 of the 19th September.)

AN examination of the text of this Agreement makes it appear rather less objectionable than would have seemed to be the case from Sir Nicholas O'Connor's despatch No. 141, Commercial, of the 17th September.

In Mr. Weakley's Memorandum, inclosed in that despatch, it is stated that "the Convention takes the place of all former Treaties, all of which are to be considered null and void while this Arrangement is in force."

This may have been the intention of the negotiators, as it certainly was the wish

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of the Russian and Persian Embassies, but the actual text of the Convention expresses it in a very inadequate and ambiguous manner. It is as follows:—

“Toute disposition de Traité ou de Convention antérieure, contraire à la présente stipulation, demeure nulle et non avenue.”

On this I venture to offer the following observations:—

1. The earlier Treaties are not abrogated, but only such provisions in them as are contrary to the mutual grant of “most favoured treatment.”

2. The enjoyment of most-favoured-nation treatment does not exclude the right of the nation enjoying it to claim a specific duty peculiar to itself so long as it finds it convenient to do so. The Zanzibar Treaties, for example, all, or nearly all, contain (a.) a most-favoured-nation clause; (b.) a provision that no duty shall be levied by the Sultan on the other party's goods in excess of 5 per cent. *ad valorem*. The Turks have already a most favoured clause in their Treaty with Persia of 1875 (Article XIV), and its existence has never been held to deprive Turkey of her right to a 4 per cent. import duty, or to abrogate by implication the provisions of the Treaties of Erzeroum, under which that right is secured to her.*

3. It follows that these provisions are not dispositions contrary to the most-favoured-nation stipulations of the new Convention, and that it may very reasonably be contended that all the Convention does is (1) to re-enact Article XIV of the Turco-Persian Treaty of 1875; (2) to apply that Article explicitly, and not, as formerly, implicitly, to customs matters; (3) to forbid any stipulation contrary to that Article to be cited against it; (4) to enable either Government to cancel that Article by giving a year's notice.

It may be convenient to quote the actual text of Article XIV of the Treaty of 1875. “In matters outside of the tenour of the thirteen preceding Articles, the subjects of the exalted Government of Persia resident in the Ottoman dominions, and Ottoman subjects who may be in the guarded realms of Persia shall enjoy the same privileges and favours as are enjoyed by the subjects of the most favoured foreign nations.” The thirteen Articles refer to (1) jurisdiction, (2) trade guilds, (3) Consular Agents, (4) protection of Persians and their estates, (5) passports, (6) exemption from military service, (7) law suits, (8) dues payable to Consular Agents, (9) naturalization, (10) reciprocity, (11) real property, (12) procedure, (13) bankruptcies. Customs duties are therefore a matter outside of the tenour of these thirteen Articles, and are subject to the most-favoured-nation principle.

If the Persians contend that on this assumption the new Convention is redundant and therefore meaningless and that it cannot have been the intention of the two Governments to conclude an arrangement of such a nature, it may be answered that the arrangement does modify the old régime, but not in the sense of necessarily abrogating the old duties.

1. It makes it clear that the last paragraph of Article II (section 2) which provided that while the imported goods remained in the possession of their first proprietors, and were not disposed of to other persons, no further duties over and above the 4 per cent. import could be levied, cannot be construed as the Persians have tried to construe it as justifying the imposition of an excise or transfer from the first importers. This paragraph, interpreted in the above sense, would be contrary to most-favoured-nation treatment since such an excise could not, under Article III of the Treaty of Turkomanhai be levied on Russian goods, and is, therefore, a “disposition contraire à la présente stipulation” in the eyes of the new Convention. The right of denunciation further constitutes an important modification which may be held to be reciprocally advantageous to both States. A still more important effect may be said to be the disappearance of the temporary Arrangement (the date of which we do not know and the text of which we have not got) under which the import duties were raised from 4 to 6 per cent. and which sprang from the right claimed by the Persians of imposing an excise or “duty upon transfer from the first importer.”

It follows from the above that the effect of the new Convention on Turkey may be said to be, that she can claim either the system of the Treaty of Turkomanhai till it is replaced by the new Russo-Persian Tariff, and then that Tariff, or the continued application to her imports of Articles II of the first, and VI of the second, Treaty of Erzeroum, *i.e.*, an import duty of 4 per cent. *ad valorem*. Nothing is said in these Treaties about exports, the Turks would, therefore, be liable to the Russian export

* I believe neither the Turks nor the Persians remembered this change. Their archives are badly kept. The Grand Vizier assured me at Karlsbad that Turkey had no most-favoured-nation treatment, and would not believe me when I said she had.—A. H. H.

No. 18*.

The Euphrates and Tigris Steam Navigation Company to Foreign Office.—
(Received October 8.)

3, Salter's Hall Court, Cannon Street,
London, October 7, 1902.

Sir,

I AM instructed by my Board to bring before your notice the subjoined cablegram, which we have just received from our Bussorah house:—

"Belgian Customs insist on downward and upward through cargo be landed, examined and duty made at Mohammerah. They refuse recognize existing arrangements. One barge downward cargo afloat Mohammerah. We are awaiting instructions how to act. His Majesty's Consul at Mohammerah has no instructions. Have advised Ahwaz suspend downward shipments. What do you recommend? Belgian Customs demanded we collect rahdari tax from muleteers at Nasserri on telegraph material. Reply by telegraph."

I beg to draw your attention to the fact that the existing arrangement for the collection of customs dues at port of destination was made and agreed to some eleven years ago, solely with the object of facilitating the flow of through traffic into the country. This traffic, which we have been all these years, and at a very great expense, endeavouring to encourage and foster, would be seriously dislocated by such an arrangement as that suggested in this telegram.

Under these circumstances my Board would ask you that a telegram be sent at once, at their expense, to His Majesty's Minister at Tehran, instructing him to decline to recognize the arbitrary action of the Belgian authorities in this matter, and to insist upon the enforcement of the arrangements which have hitherto existed.

With respect to the latter part of the telegram, you will observe that an attempt has been made to levy a rahdari tax upon the Government telegraph material, which we have had the pleasure of forwarding for His Majesty's Government to Ispahan, and we venture to request your instructions in the matter.

I have, &c.

(Signed) FRANK BOTTOMLEY,
Acting Secretary.

duties. It further follows that other Powers having most-favoured-nation treatment in Persia can claim the same rights as Turkey.

A consequence of this contention would be that Persia could claim a 4 per cent. import duty in Turkey, and that all other Powers having most-favoured-nation clauses in their Treaties with the Porte could do so also. If the Turks realized this, they might be shy about admitting the above interpretation of the new Convention. It might, therefore, be more convenient for the Turks to get out of the Agreement, if they wish to do so, by denouncing it. It seems very questionable whether the concluding paragraph of this Convention could be held in this case to sweep away all previous arrangements as to customs embodied in former Treaties, but on this point I do not here offer a decided opinion.

Perhaps the most convenient course, from our point of view, for Turkey to adopt would be, when the new Russian Tariff is communicated to her, to state that she reserves to herself the right either of adopting it or falling back on the customs provisions of the Treaties of Erzeroum. We might make a simultaneous declaration. It would not be necessary for the Porte to denounce the present Agreement, but merely to state that she wished to satisfy herself that the new Russian Tariff was not more prejudicial to her interests than the system of the Treaties of Erzeroum. She would lose nothing by doing this, and we should gain time.

If the Porte fails us altogether we can fall back upon Egypt. The Firman of 1873, posterior to all Turco-Persian Treaties except that of 1875, gives Egypt autonomy in the matter of the renewal or conclusion of commercial as distinct from political Treaties. It follows that Egypt is not bound by any purely commercial arrangements made between the Porte and Persia subsequent to 1873, but only by those anterior to that date. That this has been recognised by Persia herself is proved by the fact that in 1887 she negotiated with Egypt a Convention about tobacco without reference to Constantinople. Now a Tobacco Convention with Turkey had been negotiated some 13 years earlier (in, I think, 1874) but I believe that this Convention was not applied to Egypt, and that the tobacco question was not dealt with till 13 years later between the Egyptian and Persian Governments.

But Egypt has all along enjoyed in all other respects the same treatment as Turkey and therefore retains it until she on her side agrees to its modification. It would, therefore, seem that until Egypt accedes to the Perso-Turkish Convention of September last, she can still claim, and therefore so can we, as a most favoured nation, the treatment of the Treaty of Erzeroum. We should probably, in this case, have to pay 6 per cent. instead of 5, but the mere fact that we made this claim, especially if one or two other interested Powers (e.g., Austria) followed suit, might oblige Persia and Russia to consent to a negotiation between London and Tehran for the purpose of rendering the new Russian Tariff acceptable to us.

I suggest, therefore, for consideration that, subject to previous verification at Cairo of the facts as to Perso-Egyptian commercial relations, I might inform the Grand Vizier that pending the examination by an expert of the Tariff, we reserved our right in the event of its becoming operative before such examination had been concluded, to demand for our goods the treatment accorded to those of both Turkey and Egypt, which we regard as the most favoured nations once the commercial privileges secured to us by the Treaty of Turcomanchai were abrogated. If we could get Turkey to say, as Tewfik Pasha asserts, that she did not mean by the recent Arrangement to surrender her rights under the Erzeroum Treaties that would greatly strengthen our position.

October 7, 1902.

(Signed) A. H. HARDINGE.

No. 19.

Mr. des Graz to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received October 8.)

(No. 57.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

DISPATCH of Russian troops to Seistan.

Your Lordship's telegram No. 49 of the 6th October.

I saw Minister for Foreign Affairs on this subject yesterday. His Excellency gave me a verbal assurance that up to date no troops from Khorassan or elsewhere have been sent to Seistan, with the exception of 500 foot and 100 Sowars from

Tehran, October 8, 1902.

Meshed. These latter are to replace the Kain regiment, which has now been pronounced entirely unfit for service. He said that the rumoured dispatch of a regiment from Kerman was a lie.

I strongly pressed his Excellency to urge the Minister of War to issue orders for the recall of the Kain regiment simultaneously with the arrival of the fresh troops from Meshed, laying stress on the importance, at this juncture, of not complicating the situation on the frontier.

His Excellency promised to recommend the suggestion to the Minister of War, and said he would let me know the result after the return of the latter, who is absent from Tehran for a few days. He said, however, that he was unable to give me a definite assurance on the matter.

He assured me that the maintenance of order in Seistan required the presence of the troops now being sent, which were no more than were necessary for this purpose.

No. 20.

Mr. des Graz to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received October 8.)

(No. 58.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Tehran, October 8, 1902.

YOUR Lordship's telegrams Nos. 47 and 48 of the 4th October.

I have made a communication to the Persian Government, asking for an early reply, inquiring as to whether they agree to the final decision of the Afghan-Seistan boundary question resting with your Lordship.

The Mushir-ed-Dowleh stated that he would at once telegraph to the Shah on the subject.

No. 21.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir R. Rodd.

(No. 183.)

Sir,

Foreign Office, October 8, 1902.

THE Italian Chargé d'Affaires told me to-day that he was instructed to inform me that the Italian Government had come to the conclusion that it was necessary to take measures to put a stop to acts of piracy committed on the Erythraean coast by Turkish subjects belonging to the Yemen district. The Italian Government had also a grievance against Turkey on account of the exactions to which Italian dhows belonging to Erythraea were subjected by the local Turkish authorities. It had been found impossible to obtain redress, and the Italian Government accordingly proposed to send several ships of war to the Yemen coast for the purpose of punishing the pirates and vindicating Italian rights.

Signor Prinetti was particularly anxious that the objects of this demonstration should not be misunderstood by us, and the Chargé d'Affaires had accordingly been instructed to give me notice of what was intended, and to assure me that the Italian Government had no ulterior designs.

I begged Signor Carignani to offer to Signor Prinetti my thanks for his thoughtfulness, which would enable me to give a satisfactory reply to any questions which might be addressed to His Majesty's Government in consequence of these occurrences.

I am, &c.
(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

No. 22.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir N. O'Connor.

(No. 29. Commercial.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Foreign Office, October 9, 1902.

IS Egypt alluded to in the Tombac Arrangement referred to in the recent Turko-Persian Agreement, which is mentioned in your despatch No. 145 of the 19th ultimo.

Is there any difference between the terms of that arrangement and those of the Convention of the 14th April, 1887, between Egypt and Persia?

Text of latter Agreement will be found on p. 962 of vol. lxxviii of "State Papers."

I request that you will send me a copy of the arrangement with Turkey.

No. 21*.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to the Earl of Cromer.

(No. 5. Commercial.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Foreign Office, October 8, 1902.

PLEASE report whether there exist any other Customs arrangements, similar to that on the subject of tobacco, between Persia and Egypt. Please report also what is the rate of duty levied on Persian goods entering Egypt, and under what Treaty such duties are assessed.

An arrangement which is injurious to the interests of this country has been concluded between Persia and Turkey, and it may be advantageous for us to claim Egyptian treatment for British goods imported into Persia as distinct from that accorded to Turkish goods.

No. 23.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received October 10.)

Sir,

India Office, October 9, 1902.

I AM directed by Lord George Hamilton to request that you will lay before the Marquess of Lansdowne the inclosed copy of a telegram from the Resident at Aden, dated the 8th October.

It would appear that, so far from withdrawing their troops from the posts occupied last autumn, as demanded by Sir N. O'Connor in his interviews with Tewfik Pasha and the Grand Vizier, reported in his despatch No. 411 of the 18th ultimo, the military authorities in Yemen are endeavouring to arrange for a Turkish post at Jabal Awas, about 6 or 8 miles south-west of Mafare.

It appears to his Lordship that the time has arrived for bringing the matter directly before His Majesty the Sultan, as proposed by Sir N. O'Connor in his despatch above cited.

I am, &c.

(Signed) HORACE WALPOLE.

 Inclosure in No. 23.
Brigadier-General Maitland to the Government of India.

(Telegraphic.) P.

Aden, October 8, 1902.

SO far from withdrawing their posts, the Turks are reported by Wahab on the 5th October to be intriguing with Arkade Sheikhs and others, with view to further advance and occupation of Jabal Awas, which is apparently plateau, of which highest point is peak marked 7131, 6 to 8 miles south-west of Mafare.

 No. 24.
India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received October 10.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Lord George Hamilton, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copies of a telegram from the Viceroy, dated the 9th October, relative to the Perso-Afghan frontier dispute.

India Office, October 9, 1902.

 Inclosure in No. 24.
Government of India to Lord G. Hamilton.

(Telegraphic.) P.

October 9, 1902.

TELEGRAM from Tehran on 6th October states, in reference to my telegram of the 4th, that Des Graz was informed some time ago by Persian Minister of War that the Kain regiment was being recalled for inefficiency, and that a regiment was being sent to Seistan to relieve it. Telegram from Whyte of the 7th states that he derived from absolutely authoritative source his information that troops are being sent, not in relief, but as reinforcements; and that, on the understanding that the matter is kept confidential, Governor-General of Khorassan has promised him to detain for a week the troops who have now arrived at Turbat-i-Haidari.

(Repeated to Tehran.)

No. 25.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir N. O'Connor.

(No. 104.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Foreign Office, October 10, 1902.

ADEN delimitation.

With reference to the telegram from Resident at Aden of the 8th October, and which I have repeated to you, and to your telegram No. 92, it would appear that the matter has now reached a stage when it would be desirable that, as suggested in your despatch No. 411 of the 18th September, you should bring it before the Sultan.

No. 26.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Mr. des Graz.

(No. 50.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Foreign Office, October 10, 1902.

REPORT from Messrs. Lynch's agent states that Belgian Customs require the landing examination and payment of duty on upward and downward through cargo at Mohammerah, and refuse to recognize existing arrangements.

Pending a fresh Agreement between two Governments, you should insist on existing Arrangement, as reported in telegram No. 112 of the 30th May, 1891, from Mr. Kennedy being observed.

No. 27.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Mr. des Graz.

(No. 51.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Foreign Office, October 10, 1902.

ACCORDING to report from Messrs. Lynch's agent, the Belgian Customs officials require that the Rahdari Tax shall be collected at Nasserri on the materials for new telegraph line which the Company are forwarding to Ispahan for His Majesty's Government.

Exemption from this tax should be claimed by you under Article XI of the Convention of 1901, which renews Article XV of Convention of 1872.

His Majesty's Government would be compelled to charge the tax, if not remitted, against the account of the Persian Government when the telegraph material is paid for.

No. 28.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received October 11.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Lord George Hamilton, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of a letter from the Resident, Aden, No. 263, dated the 13th September, relative to the Aden Delimitation Commission.

India Office, October 11, 1902.

No. 29*.

The Earl of Cromer to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received October 11.)

(No. 13. Commercial.)
(Telegraphic.) P.

Cairo, October 11, 1902.

IN reply to the inquiries contained in your Lordship's telegram No. 5, Commercial, of the 8th instant, I have the honour to state that, with the exception of that relating to tombac, no special arrangement exists between Persia and Egypt.

A duty of 6 per cent. *ad valorem* is levied on Persian goods entering Egypt, this being collected in virtue of a Treaty concluded between Turkey and Persia in July 1823, which was confirmed by a second Treaty concluded on the 26th May, 1894.

Very little trade is carried on between Persia and Egypt.

Inclosure 1 in No. 28.

Political Resident, Aden, to India Office.

(No. 263. Confidential.)

Sir,

Aden, September 13, 1902.

COLONEL WAHAB'S No. 116, Secret, dated Camp, Dthali, 11th September last, forwarded, with compliments, to the Secretary, Political and Secret Department, India Office, London. This covers the political Diary of the Commission from the 3rd to the 10th September, inclusive.

I have, &c.
(For Political Resident),
(Signed) R. S. POTTINGER, *Captain.*

Note.—A copy has been forwarded to the Government of Bombay.

Inclosure 2 in No. 28.

Diary, 3rd to 10th September, inclusive.

4th September.—Major Tod paid a complimentary visit to the Turkish Commissioners after their entertainment on the 1st instant. Some Turkish Arab levies from the custom-house at Sanah, south of Kataba, endeavoured to intercept three camels bringing grain from the north to Dthali, when they were passing through the Amir's district of Hazat-al-Abid (on the left bank of the Wadi-as-Sofiya, south of Sanah). The Hazat-al-Abid people resisted, killing one of the levies, and the camels came through safely to Dthali.

5th September.—Sheikh Ali-bin-Ali-Nagi-az-Zendani, of Jabal Jihaf, came to camp, complaining that the Turks were continually persecuting him. He was sent away with a small present, and not interviewed.

6th September.—Seyid Hassan, of Dthali, took leave on proceeding again to visit the Imam.

7th September.—Ration convoy started for Aden.

No. 116, Secret, Camp, Dthali, 11th September last, forwarded, with compliments, to the Resident at Aden, for favour of transmission to the Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department.

(Signed) R. A. WAHAB, *Colonel,*
Aden Boundary Commission.

No. 29.

Mr. des Graz to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received October 11.)

(No. 59.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Tehran, October 11, 1902.

MOHAMMERAH Customs.

I have already received a complaint from Messrs. Lynch's agent on the subject, and have made representations to the Persian Government based on Sir H. Wolff's Memorandum inclosed in his despatch No. 50 of the 15th February, 1890, to the Foreign Office.

I am now addressing a further note on the subject on the strength of Mr. Kennedy's telegram referred to in your Lordship's telegram No. 50 of yesterday's date.

Consul Cox to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received October 13.)

(No. 424.)

My Lord,

Muscat, September 21, 1902.

I HAVE the honour to submit copy of a Notification which I issued in Muscat on the 13th instant, with the concurrence of his Highness the Sultan, who has promulgated a copy of it for the information of his own subjects.

2. I consulted the Government of India as to the general position in this connection, but the Notification has not been issued with their authority, as there were urgent reasons for the issue of something of the sort without delay, and the responsibility for the form of the Notification is therefore my own.

I trust it will meet with your Lordship's concurrence and approval.

The reasons for the issue of the Notice are twofold:—

(1.) The British-Indian (Hindoo Banya) traders in Muscat and other ports of Oman, who are mostly usurers, have become a necessity to the Arab, but at the same time occupy in their eyes much the same position as the Jew usurer does in Europe, and this is one of the chief difficulties which British Representatives in Oman have to contend with, and is an increasing one. In the course of their business these Banyas frequently advance money to Arabs on the security of deeds hypothecating their houses and landed property, situated sometimes at long distances from the coast, and saying nothing about them at the time, produce the deeds years afterwards with the complaint that the mortgagor cannot redeem the property, and then claim their Consul's interference to put them in possession.

Not to interfere is to some extent damaging to British prestige; to interfere is to sow a considerable amount of anti-British feeling among the inhabitants of Oman, which we can ill afford to do at the present day.

The Notification under report was devised primarily as a remedy to the above state of things.

(2.) The reason for its immediate urgency is a different one.

Most of the desirable building sites in Muscat belong to British-Indian subjects, many of whom are not too scrupulous. There is no doubt that intrigues are now going on, with M. Goguyer for their medium, for the furtherance of Russian aims in Muscat. My French colleague told me confidentially only a few days ago that he knew the individual above mentioned to be endeavouring to get made Consular Agent for Russia; and the Russian Consul-General at Bushire has twice addressed letters to the Sultan in which he expresses the hope of paying his respects to him at an early date.

The first thing they will need to do will be to effect the purchase of a suitable building site, and it is very necessary that His Majesty's Consul should be in a position to know what is going on in this direction as far as possible, in view of the fact before mentioned that most of the desirable sites are the property of British-Indians.

3. The Notification only applies to British subjects, and, by reason of the Sultan's publishing a copy of it, to Arab subjects; and I am not forgetful of the fact that the British Consul could not, on the strength of it, refuse to recognize a transfer of property in any dispute in which the transferee was a Russian or a Frenchman, but it seemed undesirable either directly or indirectly to draw special attention to the above application of it, and in its present form it will in all likelihood suffice to deter British subjects from entering into any negotiations of the sort apprehended, and that is all that is required to effect.

4. It has been brought to my notice during the week that M. Goguyer has taken a careful copy of it from the notice-board, and there can be little doubt but that he will endeavour to make mischief out of it if he can see any means of doing so. I submit, however, that the form of it gives the French no grounds for objection, and that if M. Goguyer should make much of it, it will be proof of the fact that something of the sort was called for.

I have the honour to reiterate the hope that it will have your Lordship's concurrence, and beg to remain, &c.

(Signed) P. Z. COX.

Notification, dated September 13, 1902.

IN pursuance of the power and authority vested in His Britannic Majesty's Consul at Muscat by Article 1 of the Muscat Order in Council, dated the 4th November, 1867, for the maintenance of the peace, order, and discipline of His Majesty's subjects residing within the Oman territories of His Highness the Sultan of Muscat, notice is hereby given to all subjects of His Majesty Edward VII, King of Great Britain and Ireland and Emperor of India, that from the date of this Notification British and British-protected subjects are hereby prohibited under penalty of fine or imprisonment, or both, from alienating or acquiring to or from any British, British-protected, or non-British subject, any land or household property within the dominions of His Highness the Sultan of Muscat, either by gift, purchase, mortgage, or other form of conveyance, without due execution of signature and registration in His Britannic Majesty's Consulate at Muscat, previous to transfer of such property.

Given under my hand and seal this 13th day September, 1902.

(Signed) P. Z. COX, Consul.

No. 31.

Sir N. O'Connor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received October 13.)

(No. 443.)

My Lord,

Therapia, October 8, 1902.

ON receipt of your Lordship's telegram No. 101 of the 3rd instant, I expressed my surprise at the delay in transmitting the orders to the Turkish Commissioners to proceed with the frontier Delimitation work.

The Minister for Foreign Affairs professed equal astonishment, as orders ought certainly to have reached the Commission in a shorter time than ten days. He said he knew that they had been sent about the 18th ultimo, and he took written note of the matter with a view to inquiries at the Ministry for War.

It will contribute materially to the success and speed of the Delimitation work if I hear as early as possible that the Commissioners have either hesitated, or refused to obey, or misunderstood, orders which I have reported as sent to them from here.

I have, &c.

(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

No. 32.

Memorandum by Mr. Ball respecting Position of Egypt as regards Commercial Treaties concluded by the Porte.

IN 1894, His Majesty's Government was asked to intervene respecting difficulties that had arisen in connection with the Convention between Egypt and Persia of the 14th April, 1887, respecting the sale in, and importation of, tombac into Egypt.

In a Memorandum inclosed in Lord Cromer's No. 76 of the 22nd May, 1894, Sir E. Palmer stated "as regards what will happen at the expiry of the ten years for which the Convention of 1887 was made, our lawyers hold that the Egyptian Government will then be free to put such duty on tombac as it thinks fit, and will not be bound by any arrangement between Turkey and Persia. As, however, the Persian Government do not agree in this view, the Egyptian Government have entered into negotiations with a view to making a fresh Convention for ten years, which period might possibly be extended to fifteen years, on the distinct understanding that the Persian Government recognize that on the expiry of this further Convention the Egyptian Government will be free to deal with tombac as it may think fit, and will not be bound by any arrangement Persia may have with Turkey." On these conditions the Egyptian Government were willing to continue the monopoly to the present holder.

On the 15th June, 1894, the Persian Representative in London communicated a

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telegram from his Government, that is the Sadr Azam, of which the following is an extract:—

"The monopoly for Persian tobacco in Egypt was given to M. Zogheb for a period of twenty years beginning from the commencement of 1898. The Egyptian Government states that, in virtue of the Firmans of the Turkish Government, the Egyptian Government having freedom in matters relating to commerce, is willing to sign the contract for the monopoly for the period of ten years from that date with the understanding that after the expiration of the said ten years the Egyptian Government shall again resume its right to free action."

The telegram from the Persian Government contained also the following:—

"The Egyptian Government also state that in consequence of the freedom granted to them by the Turkish Government they are not bound to submit to the stipulations of the Treaty between Persia and Turkey."

"This pretension on the part of the Egyptian Government is inadmissible for the reason that even if the said Firmans invest the Egyptian Government with the right of concluding Commercial Treaties it does not necessarily follow that, before concluding such Treaties, those already existing between Turkey and Persia can partly or wholly have become extinct on that account."

"We do not mean to contest the right of the Egyptian Government as to concluding Commercial Treaties, but, so far, nothing has been done, and, as long as they have not formed a Commercial Treaty with us, they are obliged to respect the stipulations of the Turkish Treaty and Convention."

On the 9th July, 1894, the Persian and Egyptian Governments concluded a Convention prolonging that of 1887 for twenty-two years, on condition that the Egyptian Government would have perfect liberty of action at the end of that period (see "State Papers," vol. lxxxviii, p. 569).

I annex a Law Officers' Report and Memorandum of 1890,* as to the position of Egypt in the matter of Commercial Treaties.

(Signed) NICHOLAS BALL.

Foreign Office, October 13, 1902.

No. 33.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Mr. des Graz.

(No. 93. Confidential.)

Sir,

Foreign Office, October 13, 1902.

I TRANSMIT to you herewith a copy of a letter from the India Office,† forwarding an account of a journey by Seyyid Hassan, of Dthali, in the Imam's country in South-West Arabia.

I should be glad to learn if you have any information as to the communications which are stated to have passed between the Imam and the Shah.

I am, &c.

(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

No. 34.

Mr. H. F. B. Lynch to Foreign Office.—(Received October 14.)

3, Salters' Hall Court, Cannon Street, E.C.,
October 13, 1902.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to inclose to you a translation of the Persian document relating to the Road Concession, held for some years back by the Imperial Bank of Persia, which was handed to me at Marlborough House on the 24th August by his Highness the Atabeg-i-Azam, Prime Minister of Persia, after it had received the signature of His Majesty the Shah.

The translation was made by the Secretary of his Highness, Mirza Hussein Khan, and it has been verified by the Secretary in charge of the Persian Legation, Ghaffar Khan. I have handed a copy of the translation to the Persian Legation at the request of Ghaffar Khan, and I hold the Persian document at the offices of my Company. I

* Law Officers, June 11: Memorandum by Mr. Farnall June 12, 1890.

† See No. 12

would request you kindly to return the translation to me at the above address at your earliest convenience, the envelope to be marked "Private."

I have conferred with my colleague, Sir Edwyn Dawes, as to the wording of clause 2 of this document. The Persian Minister for Public Works altered the wording of the clause, as drafted by Sir Edwyn and myself, in a manner which appears to us to render it ambiguous. We are of opinion that this ambiguity should be removed. Our purchase from the Bank is conditional upon the Concession being modified as follows:—

"The Persian Government shall agree that the construction of either caravan or cart roads under the said Concession shall be deemed to constitute a compliance with the terms of such Concession relating to the construction of the roads therein referred to. But the Company will have the right to develop at their pleasure such caravan roads into cart roads."

The clause, as submitted by me to the Persian Government, was drafted in almost identical terms. The changes introduced by the Minister for Public Works are calculated, we feel, to open the door to discussions and disputes. There should be no reason why the Persian Government should object to the language of our draft, seeing that the tolls, as levied on the Tehran-Kum Road, where traffic is already fully developed, do not provide a net revenue in excess of what would be required to support a good caravan road, and, of course, they are quite insufficient to pay interest and sinking fund on the large sums spent upon that road.

We shall be much obliged if you could kindly obtain the reinstating of the language of the clause, as drafted by us, and given above at your earliest convenience, as it forms one of the cardinal points of the scheme. The change in language was made by the Minister for Public Works at the last moment, in a hurry, and was, perhaps, due to misapprehension.

The following are the further modifications of the Concession which I pressed upon the Persian Government during their stay in London. The stay was so short, and the Prime Minister was so obviously averse to transacting any business, that I was unable to secure for them proper discussion. They are:—

1. Tolls shall be payable not only for the use of the bridges but for the general use of the roads.

2. The Company will have the right to construct a caravan road or a levelled road between the Arabistan Road and the City of Kermanshah, and also between that road and the City of Hamadan, the conditions being the same as in the case of the other roads.

3. If, in the future, the Exalted Government should accord permission for the construction of another, or other railways in Persia, the Company shall have the right to construct a railway from the south to Tehran. The conditions would be arranged hereafter with the Exalted Government; but these conditions shall not be more onerous than those which may be accorded to any other railway in Persia, and they shall be equally advantageous.

4. The Exalted Government undertakes to take the necessary measures to put a stop to the system of embargoes on the export of wheat from the Province of Arabistan. But it reserves to itself the full right to impose such an embargo to meet the case of serious famine.

As regards No. 3, I have received a letter from Sir Thomas Gordon, in which he informs me confidentially that the British Government possesses the right to a railway in the south whenever a concession is given for one in the north; but adds that, as the British Government is to subsidize the road, it follows that this right would fall to the Road Company. This information is very satisfactory, but I trust you will not think it unreasonable of me to request that some assurance in this sense, namely, that the right would fall to the Road Company, may be given to us by the Foreign Office. The modifications I have enumerated above, one of which relates to the railway, are the conditions drawn up originally by Sir Edwyn Dawes and myself, and submitted to you as those upon which we were prepared to enter into the scheme. I would request that, after the modification concerning caravan roads shall have been obtained from the Persian Government, the other modifications given above, excluding that relating to the railway, may be obtained from the Persian Government as soon as possible. I understand that you consider that it is not necessary to raise again with them the question of the railway, adequate provision having already been made in that respect.

I have, &c.

(Signed) H. F. B. LYNCH.

Persian Document relating to the Road Concession.

(Translation.)

THE Exalted Government of His Imperial Majesty the Shah-in-Shah having taken cognizance of the fact that a new Company is being formed to take over from the Imperial Bank of Persia the Road Concession held by the Bank, and dated the 26th November, 1899 (3rd Rebbi ossani, Udyil, 1307), with supplementary Articles, dated 1, Zikade Bars Yil, 1307; 14 Jemadi-ul-Evel, 1307; Shavval, 1308 (two Articles); 16th Jemadi-el-Evel, 1310; 28th Shavval, 1313; Rajab-ul-morajjab, 1316, and recognizing that certain modifications of the said Concession may be necessary, in order to enable the new Company successfully to exploit the Concession, grants to Mr. H. F. B. Lynch and his Company as follows:—

1. The period contemplated in the Concession for road construction will be prolonged for a further period of ten years from the date of the signature of the present document.

2. The Company is authorized to construct caravan roads instead of levelled roads ("chaussées") in mountainous districts or districts presenting difficulties to wheeled traffic. But the Company reserves to itself the right to convert such caravan roads into levelled roads in case it should desire so to do.

The remaining modifications will be settled in Tehran with the Minister for Foreign Affairs in concurrence with the Persian Government.

Signature of His Imperial Majesty the Shah.

Marlborough House, London,
August 24, 1902.

Annex 1.

Minute by Sir A. Hardinge.

I think Mr. Lynch's demand for an alteration in the wording of Article 2 unreasonable, at least, as a condition of purchase, and it is calculated to arouse in the mind of the Grand Vizier suspicions as to the genuineness of his intentions. I will try to get the other modifications through when I reach Persia, but my success depends very much upon the temper of the Persian Government.

I do not see why the Kum-Ispahan section of the road should not be made available for wheeled traffic. It is practically so already, via Naigar, and if the Company spend a very little on improving this route they can say that a *chaussée* exists. It is quite easy to make *chaussées* in Persia, in the plains, if by *chaussées* is meant carriageable roads. In the plains you can drive along "caravan" roads, and if the Company construct these wherever the districts are not mountainous or of a nature to present difficulties to wheeled traffic, they will practically have complied with Article 2 of the Concession. The best thing from our point of view would be that they should take the Concession over from the bank without further delay, and should construct their "caravan roads" from Kum to Ispahan, and from Sultanabad to the south. This will be a guarantee to the Persian Government that they mean to exploit the Concession, and will facilitate the conclusion of the further points. It will be noticed that, in his inclosed letter to me of the 25th August (which I suggest should be kept as a record in the Foreign Office), Mr. Lynch does not insist, as a condition of his purchase from the bank, on the redrafting of Article 2, and I do not think that he should now, two months later, reopen the question.

29, Portland Place, October 21, 1902.

Annex 2.

Dear Sir Arthur,

I inclose a translation of the Persian text of the document signed by the Shah yesterday, which is in my possession. I shall take the document and translation to the Foreign Office for registration.

I also inclose a new draft of the modifications which we require, the draft being in all respects identical with that submitted by me to the Atabeg, with the exception of Article 5. This Article I have drafted afresh in accordance with your suggestions. I have also modified Article 1 to bring it into consonance with accomplished facts.

Both Sir Thomas Gordon and myself attach the greatest importance to obtaining Article 5. The purport of it has evidently been misunderstood by His Imperial Majesty the Shah. The construction of the road through Luristan to Sultanabad will be a costly and laborious task, and without this Article it would be open to the Persian Government to rob us at some future time of the result of our labours by granting to others the right to construct a railway. On the other hand, it would be a great encouragement to our shareholders to know that they had a priority of right in the purely hypothetical circumstances of railways being in the future permitted in Persia.

33, Port Street, S.W., August 25, 1902.

As regards Article 2, the Persian document alters my draft in a manner which leaves the door open to dispute. We have no present intention of building any fresh *chaussées*. We hope to place the Kum-Ispahan section in good order, but not as a *chaussée*. It would be much better to adopt the wording of my draft, but in any case it must be clearly understood between the Legation and ourselves that the construction of caravan roads is all that we contemplate. That is one of the cardinal points of our scheme, and in case of dispute in the future it is not a point that we could consent to submit to arbitration. Of course we reserve to ourselves the right of converting a caravan road into a *chaussée*, should at any time we deem it desirable.

The junction routes with Kermanshah and Hamadan are also most important. They would relieve our steamers on the Tigris, which are limited in number, and the considerable trade with those cities would be in part diverted to the new route, and pass entirely through Persian territory to the great advantage of the Persian revenues.

The importance of the document obtained yesterday from the Persian Government lies in the fact that it revives the old Concession, and pledges that Government in principle to the new scheme. While you must remain the judge of the proper opportunity, I cannot help insisting upon the importance of obtaining Articles 4 and 5 with the least possible delay.

I trust, too, that before you return to Tehran, you may be able to arrange with the Foreign Office for the appointment of a Consular Representative of the proper calibre to reside at Ahwaz and take charge of the Karun districts, and enter into relations with the Lur tribes. Successive British Ministers have advocated this course, but it has never been carried through. Such a step would be of the greatest advantage to our trade. It is a necessity in view of the prospect of constructing the Luristan road, and I feel strongly that it should be taken at once, if we really do mean business.

Yours sincerely,
(Signed) H. F. B. LYNCH.

P.S.—My offer remains open to take over the house of the Consul at Mohammerah, and to be responsible for the ordinary Consular duties at the port at present.

Inclosure 1 in Annex 2.

Persian Document relating to the Road Concession.

(See Inclosure in No. 34 above.)

Inclosure 2 in Annex 2.

Draft Concession, as proposed by Mr. H. F. B. Lynch and Sir E. Dawes.

The Exalted Government of His Imperial Majesty, the Shah-in-Shah, having taken cognizance of the fact that a new Company is being formed to take over from the Imperial Bank of Persia the Road Concession held by the Bank, and dated the 26th November, 1899 (3rd Rebbi ossani, Udyil, 1307), with supplementary Articles dated 1, Zikade Bars Yil, 1307; 14th Jemadi-ul-Evel, 1307; Shavval, 1308 (two Articles); 16th Jemadi-el-Evel, 1310; 28th Shavval, 1313; Rajab-ul-morajjab, 1316, and recognizing that certain modifications of the said Concession may be necessary in order to enable the new Company successfully to exploit the Concession, grants to Mr. H. F. B. Lynch and his Company as follows:—

1. The period contemplated in the Concession for road construction will be prolonged for a further period of ten years from the date of the signature of the preliminary Agreement in London by His Imperial Majesty, the Shah-in-Shah, namely, the 24th August, 1902. In the case of the roads to Hamadan and Kermanshah, it will be prolonged for twelve years.

2. The construction of caravan roads instead of levelled roads ("chaussées") will satisfy the terms of the Concession. But the Company will have the right to develop, at their pleasure, such caravan roads into levelled roads.

3. Tolls shall be payable, not only for the use of the bridges, but for the general use of the roads.

4. The Company will have the right to construct a caravan road or a levelled road between the Arabistan Road and the City of Kermanshah, and also between that road and the City of Hamadan the conditions being the same as in the case of the other roads.

5. Although it is understood that the question of railways cannot now be entered upon, it is agreed that, if in the future railways shall be permitted in Persia, the Company shall have priority of right to construct a railway from the south to Tehran.

6. The Exalted Government undertakes to take the necessary measures to put a stop to the system of embargoes on the export of wheat from the Province of Arabistan. But it reserves to itself the full right to impose such an embargo to meet the case of serious famine.

August 25, 1902.

(Signed) H. F. B. LYNCH.

No. 35.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received October 14.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Lord George Hamilton, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of a telegram to the Viceroy, dated the 8th October, relative to the Perso-Afghan boundary dispute.

India Office, October 14, 1902.

Inclosure in No. 35.

Lord G. Hamilton to Government of India.

(Telegraphic.) P.

October 8, 1902.

YOURS 30th September. His Majesty's Government approve the preliminary arrangements you have made regarding Seistan boundary arbitration, and will ask Persian Government to agree that if award is not accepted reference should be made for final decision to the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.

No. 36.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received October 14.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Lord George Hamilton, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of two telegrams relative to the Aden Delimitation Commission.

India Office, October 14, 1902.

Inclosure 1 in No. 36.

Resident, Aden, to Lord G. Hamilton.

(Telegraphic.) P.

October 10, 1902.

FURTHER information has been received from Wahab that while Ahmade Sheikh is himself apparently staunch, his father and uncle have gone over to the Turks. In Wahab's opinion Sheikhs of Ahmade, Humedi, &c., will be unable much longer to resist Turkish pressure; he suggests that troops be moved up to occupy the territory which we claim on Amir of Dthali's behalf. Without going so far as this, it might be expedient to undertake preliminary measures by warning some troops in India for service, and by authorizing equipment to be provided at Aden for a column of 500 men.

(Repeated to Government of Bombay.)

Inclosure 2 in No. 36.

Lord G. Hamilton to Government of India.

(Telegraphic.) P.

October 11, 1902.

I HAVE received telegram from Resident at Aden, dated 10th October. I agree with him, and Lord Lansdowne concurs, that troops should not be moved up to occupy territory claimed by us on Amir of Dthali's behalf, but that it might be expedient to undertake preliminary measures by a warning for service some troops in India, and authorizing equipment for a column of 500 men to be provided at Aden. Please take necessary measures if you agree, and inform Resident and Bombay Government.

No. 37*.

The Euphrates and Tigris Steam Navigation Company to Foreign Office.—(Received October 16.)

3, Salter's Hall Court, Cannon Street, London,
October 15, 1902.

Sir, I HAVE the honour to acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 10th instant, informing us that His Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at Tehran has been instructed by telegraph to press for the observance of the Agreement of 1891, securing the collection of customs on goods carried by our steamers on the Karun at the port of destination; and also to claim exemption from the Rahdari tax on the telegraph material now on its way to Ispahan, under the Conventions of 1872 and 1901.

In thanking you for this communication, which we are sending to our agents on the Karun, I am directed by my Board respectfully to point out that the Customs Agreement was concluded after long negotiations with the Persian Government, conducted in Tehran by one of our Directors personally, in conference with His Majesty's Legation. It formed one of the conditions upon which we decided to continue the navigation of the Karun River, and to hand over the steamer "Shushan" to the Persian Government. It was not of a provisional nature. It would not be possible for us properly to conduct the navigation of the Tigris if the customs on goods in transit for Bagdad were collected at Bussorah, the port of entry; and the case is the same with Mohammerah.

I have, &c.

(Signed)

FRANK BOTTOMLEY,

Acting Secretary.

No. 38*.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to the Earl of Cromer.

(No. 6. Commercial.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Foreign Office, October 16, 1902.

I HAVE received your Lordship's telegram No. 13, Commercial, of the 11th instant, and I should be glad to learn in what form the Perso-Turkish arrangement of 1894 was communicated to the Government of Egypt.

Please report also whether the arrangement was assented to by the Egyptian Government before or after its conclusion, or whether the Government of Egypt consider themselves as bound by the act of the Suzerain Power in spite of the Firmans.

The only arrangement of 1894 affecting Egypt which can be traced in this Department is the separate tombac arrangement with Persia.

No. 37.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir N. O'Connor.

(No. 105.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Foreign Office, October 15, 1902.

A REPORT has been received from the British Commissioner, Aden Boundary Commission, that the father and uncle of the Ahmade Sheikh have gone over to the Turks, but that the Sheikh himself is apparently staunch.

In the opinion of Colonel Wahab, the Sheikhs will be unable to resist Turkish pressure much longer, and he suggests that troops should be moved up to occupy the territory of the Amir of Dthali, as claimed by us.

A telegram has been sent to the Viceroy, informing him that this step should not be taken, but that it might be expedient to undertake some preliminary measures, by authorizing equipment for a column of 500 men to be provided at Aden, and by warning some troops in India for service.

His Excellency has been authorized, if he agrees, to take the necessary steps for this purpose.

No. 38.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received October 16.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Lord George Hamilton, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of a telegram from the Viceroy, dated the 16th instant, relative to the Aden Delimitation Commission.

India Office, October 16, 1902.

Inclosure in No. 38.

Government of India to Lord G. Hamilton.

(Telegraphic.) P.

October 16, 1902.

ADEN. I agree, and am taking action as proposed in your telegram of the 11th.

No. 39.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir N. O'Connor.

(No. 107.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Foreign Office, October 16, 1902.

THE Viceroy of India has been consulted as to the proposal to send to the Aden Delimitation Commission an additional Commissioner, having special experience of dealing with the Turks, and he is ready to leave to the Foreign Office the selection of this officer.

Whom would you recommend?

No. 40.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received October 17.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Lord George Hamilton, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of an inclosure in a letter from the Foreign Secretary, Simla, dated the 25th September, relative to Muscat affairs.

India Office, October 16, 1902.

Inclosure in No. 40.

*Major Cox to Government of India.**Muscat, September 12, 1902.*

I HAVE the honour to forward the following further information in continuation of my letter dated the 30th August, to your address and previous correspondence.

2. My French colleague, in the course of a friendly visit a few days ago, asked me if I had heard of the capture of Omani dhows in Mozambique territory by the Portuguese. I replied that I had heard of it locally, but that I had not seen authentic details of it from any outside source. M. Laronce then went on to tell me that Commodore Kiesel, of the French flagship "Catinat," had recently written to him on the subject, and had explained that whereas certain of the Arabs (two he thought was the number), when engaged with, or captured by, the Portuguese, had claimed to be French protégés, the French Consul at Zanzibar had inquired into the matter, and had ascertained that they were not really entitled to protection.

I remarked that one could hardly be surprised to hear this, and that it was in accordance with the views long held by many of our Naval officers in the Indian Ocean, namely, that owing to the possession of the French flag by some of their number, Suris and other Omanis, when their dhows were in danger of inconvenient attentions from men-of-war, were in the habit of running up the French flag, whether they had any claim to use it or not, and that here was a case in point of his own quotation. He admitted that the contingency was a possible one, but did not think that such a thing could often occur.

3. In the present connection the French Consul at Zanzibar was obviously on the horns of a dilemma; for his investigation must demonstrate either that Omanis with French papers were members of an organized gang of slave-runners, or else that the members of such a gang availed themselves of the fact that some of their relations possessed the French flag in order to claim the sanctuary of it for themselves. The weak point in our argument is that up to now, unless the negotiations in process have made any very recent advance in that particular direction, we have not yet succeeded in obtaining from the French any officially authentic list of those Omani subjects whom that Power claims to protect, and we cannot, therefore, assure ourselves independently and with certainty as to what were the precise facts in the present case. The incident generally, however, has undoubtedly happened at a most opportune juncture, and I trust the Government of India will see its way to press His Majesty's Government to push the matter home.

4. In conclusion, I beg to urge that this occurrence warrants our taking any adequate and effective steps that we may consider called for in regard to the future of Sur, and I therefore venture to recommend that the question of the appointment of an Agent at Sur, suggested in my letter dated the 20th September, 1900, be reconsidered. I doubt myself whether a native Agent, of the type now employed at Gwadar and on the Pirate Coast, would be of any real use, for being a native he would be accorded little respect, and unless a man of extremely strong and loyal character which it would be difficult to find, he would inevitably be driven by force of circumstances to allow considerations of personal safety and convenience to override his duty to this Consulate. The position of an Englishman, or quasi-Englishman, would be quite different, and though at times it might be difficult to get a suitable man to go to Sur as Vice-Consul on a sufficiently modest salary, I do not think the difficulty would be by any means insurmountable, and at the present time I can point to a suitable person, who, I have little doubt, would be willing to go.

If Government do not see their way to take the above step, I would recommend as a compromise that the designation of the Head Clerk of this Consulate be altered to "Superintendent and Vice-Consul," and that he be given a slight rise of salary. This would enable the Political Agent to depute him to Sur at suitable seasons. The change would, no doubt, entail the addition of another clerk to the present establishment, but that is a measure which, as I had the honour to mention to you when at Simla last month, I was anxious to recommend in any case on general grounds.

5. I may seem, in the foregoing, to be endowing the question of Sur generally with too much importance, but I am convinced that such is not the case. The whole question of our relations with Muscat in the future, and the amount of French or other foreign influence with which we have to reckon, will inevitably hinge upon Sur, and the greater the prominence and importance which the political situation in the Persian Gulf is likely to develop in the next few years, the greater becomes the need of reducing the French flag

No. 40*.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to the Earl of Cromer.(No. 7. Commercial.)
(Telegraphic.) P.*Foreign Office, October 17, 1902.*

PLEASE see the final paragraph of my telegram No. 5, Commercial, of the 8th instant.

Should the arrangement of the 5th September last between Persia and Turkey be communicated to the Egyptian Government, it is very important that they should not, without previous communication with us, take any step which would imply its acceptance by them.

difficulty to precise limits (if we cannot eliminate it altogether), and of placing the affairs of the port of Sur on a thoroughly satisfactory footing. Until this is done, neither we nor the Sultan will ever be free from anxiety, and now that such a favourable opportunity has presented itself of forwarding our interests in the matter on unimpeachable and public grounds, I am convinced that we shall regret it hereafter if we do not use it to the best advantage.

If it is decided to place an Agent at Sur, an intimation to that effect could fittingly be included in any letter that might be addressed to His Highness the Sultan in pursuance of the recommendation which I ventured to make in my letter of the 30th ultimo to the address of the Resident in the Persian Gulf.

A copy of this communication will be duly forwarded to Bushire.

No. 41.

His Majesty's Ship "Pomone" to Admiralty.—(Communicated by Admiralty, October 18.)

(Decypher.)

(Telegraphic.)

Aden, October 17, 1902.

FOLLOWING telegram from Consul, Hodeidah:—

"Two Italian cruisers intend to bombard Hodeidah. Request protection of lives and property, British subjects."

"Harrier" sailed from Perim for Hodeidah 5 this morning.

No. 42.

Commander-in-chief, Mediterranean, to Admiralty.—(Communicated by Admiralty, October 18.)

(Decypher.)

(Telegraphic.)

Malta, October 17, 1902.

"HARRIER" at Hodeidah proposes to co-operate with three Italian men-of-war bombarding Hodeidah to-morrow morning at 8 o'clock, and states that failing satisfaction from Turkish authorities and further instructions she is protecting British interests. I have directed her to protect British interests, but she is to take no part in active hostilities without further orders, but may embark any British residents who desire it.

No. 43.

Sir N. O'Connor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received October 18.)

(No. 104.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Constantinople, October 18, 1902.

I WOULD propose Mr. Fitzmaurice as additional Commissioner, mentioned in your Lordship's telegram No. 107 of the 16th instant, and that he should start at once, if your Lordship approves.

No. 44.

Commander-in-chief, Mediterranean, to Admiralty.—(Communicated by Admiralty, October 19.)

(208. Decypher.)

(Telegraphic.)

Malta, October 18, 1902.

MY No. 206. "Harrier" has acknowledged receipt of my orders, directing her not to co-operate with Italian ships in bombarding Hodeidah, and reports that Turkish authorities have given satisfactory reply to Italian ultimatum; but in later report states that Galileo Agordat at Loheiya, Piemonte Caprera at Hodeidah. Further ultimatum issued by Italians—bombardment 8 this evening failing apprehension of certain pirates now in Hodeidah.

No. 45.

Commander-in-chief, Mediterranean, to Admiralty.—(Communicated by Admiralty, October 19.)

(209. Decypher.)

(Telegraphic.)

Malta, October 19, 1902.

MY No. 208. "Harrier" at Hodeidah reports:—

"Matters satisfactorily arranged here. Italian vessels leaving for Medi and Loheiya."

No. 46.

Sir R. Rodd to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received October 19.)

(No. 62.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Rome, October 19, 1902.

WITH reference to your Lordship's telegram No. 35 of yesterday.

The Ministry for Foreign Affairs as yet know nothing of the intended bombardment of Hodeidah.

Considerable latitude of action, however, has been given to the Italian Senior Naval Officer.

During last month a further case of piracy occurred some 25 miles from Massowah, resulting in the seizure of much booty.

No. 47.

Sir N. O'Connor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received October 19.)

(No. 105.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Constantinople, October 19, 1902.

I WAS informed last night by the Foreign Minister that, with a view to effecting an arrangement for the delivery of the pirates who had attacked villages on an island near Massowah, a Turkish Commissioner was, after agreement with the Italians, going to Mudi from Hodeidah. At a later hour I received an appeal from the Sultan for the good offices of His Majesty's Government. I am informed by M. Constans that His Imperial Majesty appealed in a similar manner to the French Government. This incident has given me an opportunity of pressing the Aden question. The orders of the Porte have evidently met with interference on the part of the Sultan, but now His Majesty shows signs of nervousness, and a favourable answer has been promised me for to-night.

No. 48.

Government of India to Lord G. Hamilton.—(Communicated by India Office, October 19.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Simla, October 19, 1902.

FIELD telegraph line between Aden and Dthali.

My telegram of the 8th.

Telegraph Department are sending all materials, to reach Aden within a month. Line will be constructed by sappers and miners at Aden. My telegram of 16th. "Hardinge" is held in readiness to take native infantry battalion to Aden. Necessary instructions have been issued to Resident.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received October 20.)

Sir,

India Office, October 17, 1902.

I AM directed by Lord George Hamilton to request that you will lay before the Marquess of Lansdowne the inclosed copy of a telegram from the Governor-General of India on the subject of the murder, in 1900, in the neighbourhood of Katif, of subjects of the Sheikh of Bahrein by members of the Behaih tribe. This matter has formed the subject of a protracted correspondence between His Majesty's Government and the Sublime Porte, the result of which, so far as it has gone, was reported in Sir N. O'Connor's despatch No. 217 of the 10th May last.

The Government of India appear to consider the prospect of procuring redress for the Bahrein Chief, through the Turkish Government, to be hopeless, and they suggest that he should be permitted to negotiate with the Behaih tribe through Sheikh Ahmed-bin-Thani, of Katr. It appears, from Colonel Kemball's letter of the 6th June last, that the Behaih have themselves taken the initiative in this matter. When the proposal was first made the Government of India were not disposed to favour it, for reasons stated in their letter to Colonel Kemball of the 4th July. Their objection has now, however, been removed.

Lord George Hamilton sees considerable objections to permitting the Bahrein Chief to enter into independent negotiations with tribes on the mainland who are in any degree subject to the Turkish Government. On the other hand, unless there is some prospect of a settlement of the question on terms to which His Majesty's Government can consent, within a reasonable time, the Bahrein Chief can hardly be expected to refrain for an indefinite period from retaliatory measures.

If, therefore, a settlement of the question through the Turkish Government is as improbable as the course of the correspondence hitherto leads him to believe, Lord George Hamilton is inclined to accept the solution now proposed by the Government of India as the less objectionable of the alternatives.

His Lordship will be glad to be favoured with Lord Lansdowne's views.

I am, &c.
(Signed) A. GODLEY.

Inclosure in No. 49 A.

Government of India to Lord G. Hamilton.

(Telegraphic.) P.

October 6, 1902.

PLEASE see Kemball's letter of the 6th June, inclosed with Foreign Secretary's of the 10th July, in connection with your despatch of the 24th June. Do you object to Sheikh of Bahrein being authorized to negotiate, through Sheikh Ahmed-bin-Thani, of Katr, with Behaih tribe, respecting the murder of his subjects near Katif? Unless he is to be allowed to seek his revenge by force, this seems to be the only means of gaining redress. The account of the incident given by the Turkish Minister of the Interior is altogether inaccurate (see letter from Kemball of the 6th September, of which a copy goes by next mail).

No. 49 B.

The Earl of Cromer to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received October 20.)

(No. 15. Commercial.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Cairo, October 19, 1902.

IN reply to the inquiries contained in your Lordship's telegram No. 6 of the 16th instant, I regret that, in my telegram No. 13 of the 11th instant, the date which should have been the 26th May, 1846, was given, by a clerical error, as the 26th May, 1894.

Since a Circular addressed to the Egyptian Customs Administration on the 1st March, 1871, no direct communication dealing with Persian customs has been made by the Ottoman authorities. Under the terms of this Circular all custom houses in the Ottoman Empire are instructed to impose on goods coming from Persia an import duty at the rate of 6 per cent. *ad valorem*, that is to say, 4 per cent. as laid down in the former Treaty, and 2 per cent. in place of the internal "droit de vente."

This is the system which remains in force up to the present time.

Since the British occupation the Egyptian Administration no longer receives copies of the Circulars issued by the Turkish customs authorities.

Hamid Bey to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received October 20.)

Ambassade Impériale de Turquie,

Londres, le 18 Octobre, 1902

M. le Marquis,

JE m'empresse de porter à la haute connaissance de votre Seigneurie la communication suivante que je viens de recevoir de mon Gouvernement.

Sur la plainte de Gouvernement Italien que des actes de pirateries avaient été commis par certains habitants du Yémen sur des îles dépendant de Massouah la Sublime Porte s'était empressée de prendre toutes les mesures nécessaires pour assurer l'arrestation immédiate et la punition exemplaire des inculpés ainsi que la restitution des biens que ceux-ci auraient enlevés pendant leurs incursions. Cependant, la Sublime Porte vient d'apprendre l'arrivée à Hudeida d'une flotille Italienne et la remise au Gouverneur par le Commandant de celle-ci d'un ultimatum dont le délai doit expirer aujourd'hui à 8 heures. Cette communication demande l'envoi à bord des navires Italiens d'un fonctionnaire Ottoman muni des pouvoirs nécessaires pour faire arrêter les inculpés et les délivrer aux autorités Italiennes et contient la menace de bombardement des trois ports de Hudeida, Midi, et Khourhelle, en cas du non-envoi de ce fonctionnaire ou de son insuccès à assurer les dites arrestations. Cette communication à d'autant plus surpris la Sublime Porte qu'ayant déjà adopté les mesures nécessaires pour assurer la bonne police de ces parages de la Mer Rouge elle était loin de s'attendre à une démarche aussi inusitée et tellement peu conforme aux usages internationaux ainsi qu'aux principes les plus essentiels du droit public moderne. Le Commandant de la flotte Italienne n'a même pas laissé par le court délai assigné au Gouverneur d'Hudeida, le temps matériellement nécessaire pour faire aboutir les mesures prises par les autorités locales et a montré par cette attitude sa résolution de se livrer quand même à des voies d'exécution qui constitueraient autant d'agressions injustifiées sur le sol de l'Empire Ottoman en parlant d'actes non compatibles avec les relations amicales qui existent entre les deux pays.

Pour éviter les accidents regrettables que le susdit ultimatum faisait pressentir, le Gouvernement Impérial a cru devoir donner des ordres à son Excellence Abdullah Pacha pour l'envoi d'un fonctionnaire spécial à bord du navire Italien avec les pouvoirs nécessaires et l'expédition sur les lieux de forces militaires suffisantes.

La Sublime Porte s'est empressée de faire à son Excellence Reshid Bey et à l'Ambassade d'Italie les communications voulues pour faire donner au Commandant Italien le contre-ordre afin de le faire renoncer à ses menaces de bombardement qui, si elles étaient exécutées, créeraient une situation fâcheuse dont le Gouvernement Impérial décline d'ores et déjà toute la responsabilité.

En appelant l'attention de votre Seigneurie sur les informations qui précèdent, je suis chargé par mon Gouvernement de la prier de bien vouloir lui accorder son bienveillant concours pour amener le Gouvernement Italien à contremander les instructions prescrites à son Commandant naval dans la Mer Rouge, et à attendre à la suite des mesures prises par la Sublime Porte la satisfaction qu'elle espère lui donner le plus prochainement possible.

J'ai, &c.
(Signé) A. HAMID.

No. 50.

Foreign Office to India Office.

Sir,

Foreign Office, October 20, 1902.

WITH reference to your letter of the 4th instant relative to the appointment of an additional member of the Aden Delimitation Commission, I am directed by the Marquess of Lansdowne to transmit to you the accompanying copy of a telegram from His Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople,* proposing Mr. Fitzmaurice, 3rd Dragoman at His Majesty's Embassy, for the post.

Mr. Fitzmaurice has had much experience in charge of various Consulates in Asia

Minor, and was British Delegate on a Commission of Inquiry on the subject of Armenian Conversions to Islamism in 1896, where he did very good work; and Lord Lansdowne proposes, if Lord George Hamilton concurs, to approve Sir N. O'Connor's selection.

I am, &c.
(Signed) T. H. SANDERSON.

No. 51.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received October 21.)

Sir,

India Office, October 17, 1902.

I AM directed by Lord George Hamilton to inclose, for Lord Lansdowne's information, a copy of papers received from India with reference to the reported capture, by the Portuguese authorities in Mozambique, of a number of Arab slave dealers.

It appears that some of these dealers at least belonged to Oman; and it would, in Lord George Hamilton's opinion, be desirable to obtain, if possible, from the Portuguese Government, a detailed narrative of the occurrence referred to, giving full information as to the names, fathers' names, and tribes of the Arabs killed and captured, with a view to their identification.

I am, &c.
(Signed) A. GODLEY.

Inclosure 1 in No. 51.

Mr. Barnes to Sir W. Lee Warner.

Dear Lee Warner,

Simla, July 16, 1902.

I SEND you herewith a copy of a letter from Major Cox, regarding a fight which is said to have taken place between a Portuguese man-of-war and a flotilla of Muscati slave dhows.

Can you kindly obtain for us, through the Foreign Office, any information on the subject that may be available?

The extracts from the "Times of India," which I inclose, are probably the newspaper reports to which Major Cox refers.

Yours sincerely,
(Signed) H. S. BARNES.

Inclosure 2 in No. 51.

Major Cox to Government of India.

Sir,

Muscat, June 11, 1902.

I HAVE the honour to report that on my return to Muscat recently, after some weeks' absence, I learnt that, while I was in the interior, a report had appeared in the newspapers in the form of a telegram from Mozambique, dated on or about the 19th March, to the effect that a Portuguese man-of-war, after a sharp fight with a flotilla of "Muscati" slave dhows, had captured twelve dhows and rescued 700 slaves, and had, during the conflict, accounted for about 200 Arabs in killed and prisoners.

2. I visited Sur this day in His Majesty's ship "Amphitrite," and while there made inquiries in connection with the above report with the following result:—

About three weeks ago when the news first reached Sur, there was general wailing and mourning on the part of the women in nearly every house in the place. Since then further details have been received, and, according to the information given to me, there are at present 155 men absent from Sur who ought to have returned before this, and who are believed to have been among those killed or captured by the Portuguese. Of these, seventeen are known to have been killed, and of this total six or seven are alleged to be French protégés without doubt.

The Jennebeh and Abu Ali Sheikhs, however, only admit three killed; have stopped all individual mourning, and the subject is generally avoided by them.

3. They have obviously good reason, as have the French, for preventing the disclosure of details and names of killed and captured, and while expressing the opinion

that it, as seems certain, the report seen in the papers is, at all events, founded on fact, the incident will considerably strengthen our position and arguments in relation to the French flag question, I have the honour to suggest that an endeavour should be made, before it is too late, to obtain from the Portuguese Government full details of the occurrence, including the names, fathers' names, and tribes of those killed and captured.

I have, &c.
(Signed) P. Z. COX, Major,
His Britannic Majesty's Consul and Political Agent, Muscat.

Inclosure 3 in No. 51.

Extract from the "Times of India" of March 24, 1902.

A PORTUGUESE REVERSE.—A Lisbon correspondent writes:—

"A military expedition of 182 men, aided by three Portuguese ships, which was sent by the authorities of Mozambique to repress slave trading in Angoche, has been utterly routed. The traders at Naburi burned two of their vessels and captured the other, as well as three field pieces. The Chiefs in the Naburi region have sworn vassalage to the Portuguese Government, and promised to arrest the revolted traders."

Inclosure 4 in No. 51.

Extract from the "Times of India" of March 25, 1902.

PORTUGAL IN AFRICA.

To the Editor of the "Times of India."

Sir,

ALLOW me to contradict the news published in your to-day's edition under the heading: "A Portuguese Reverse." I am in a position to inform you that far from a "reverse" our expedition gained another complete victory, as you will see from the following official telegrams:—

"Lourenço Marquez, the 1st March, 4 P.M. Slave traders Naburi routed. Chiefs of the region have sworn vassalage and promised to arrest slave traders absconded. Cruisers "Rafael" and "Liberal" towed the captured vessels to Mozambique."

The Portuguese Government, in reply to the above telegram, dispatched the following through the chief of the Admiralty, Lisbon:—

"Praise the Commanding Officer, Naval Division, commanding officer of the column, officers, and men for the most satisfactory and brilliant result obtained by the expedition on the River Naburi."

Thanking for the publication of this letter.

Yours, &c.
(Signed) VISCOUNT DE WREM,
Consul-General for Portugal.

Our information was derived from the London "Daily Mail."—Ed. "Times of India."

Inclosure 5 in No. 51.

Major Cox to Government of India.

Muscat, August 30, 1902.

IN continuation of my letter to your address, dated the 11th June last, I beg to forward translations of two letters received by His Highness the Sultan from a subject at Sur, which place beyond doubt the reported capture of Omani slave-dhows by a Portuguese man-of-war near Mozambique.

Inclosure 6 in No. 51.

Abdulla-bin-Abdurrahman Es-Sanani to his Highness Saiyid Feysal-bin-Turki.

(Translation.)

(After compliments.)

Sur, August 15, 1902 (10th Jamadi-ul-Awal).

I BEG to remind your Highness that I have previously addressed you, and beg the favour of an answer.

The Sur news is contained in all the letters; and, with reference to the notes which I sent you connected with the prisoners whom the Portuguese captured in Mozambique, they are composed of a quantity of men from Sur and the Batineh. These men are your servants and subjects and need to be released; and my own two sons are there; and it is befitting your high estate to release those in bonds, and, moreover, they are Moslems, and I ask from God and you to beg the Balyooz (i.e., the British Consul) to help in this matter, and your word is acceptable to us and to the Balyooz, and God will also help you and reward you; for it is written in the Koran: "He who releases one soul releases mankind, and he who kills one kills all," and they are in very great straits. We ourselves had no hand in this matter, which is their fault, but they are ignorant, and if you see any way of asking the Balyooz's assistance, I beg you to do so.

Salaams to Taimur and Muhammad-bin-Turki.

Inclosure 7 in No. 51.

Saeed-bin-Saleh-bin-Ali to his father, Saleh-bin-Ali.

(Translation.)

(After compliments.)

Mozambique, April 29, 1902 (19th Muharram).

ALL is well; but, Oh my father, by the decree of fate, the Portuguese Christians have looted our property and burnt our boats, and the natives of the Port of Simuku having assisted them, there was no escape for us, either by land or sea, and we are now kept as prisoners by the Portuguese in Mozambique, I and Abdulla-bin-Abdurrahman and Mubarak and Nasir and Saleh-bin-Abdulla and the son of Salim-bin-Abdul Aziz and Muhammad-bin-Rubiyeh and the sons of Saleh-bin-Muhammad-bin-Hamad and the son of Zuberi and the son of Shaikhan and Muhammad-bin-Saeed-el-Armashi and Yusuf-bin-Ali-bin-Abdulla and a quantity of men of the Jennebeh and Beni Boo Ali and Awamir and others from the Batineh Coast—altogether there are 120 men.

Let their friends know, Oh my father, that they are well, as also is Ali Mubarak-el-Kasmi, and I beg of you to send us some money, for I do not know what will be the length of our imprisonment, and I beseech you to strive to effect our release, and please God you will do your best, and Muhammad-bin-Mubarak and Saeed-el-Wilayeti and others from the Ras-el-Hadd neighbourhood are also among our number.

(Your son Saeed-bin-Saleh-bin-Ali-el-Amri.)

Inclosure 8 in No. 51.

Major Cox to Government of India.

(Confidential.)

Muscat, August 30, 1902.

I HAVE the honour to forward, for the information of the Government of India, copy of a letter, dated the 29th instant, which I have addressed to the Resident on the subject of the Slave Trade in these waters, and the connection of Sur with it.

Inclosure 9 in No. 51.

Major Cox to Lieutenant-Colonel Kemball.

(Confidential.)

Muscat, August 29, 1902.

I HAVE the honour to refer to the inclosures to your Indorsement, dated the 10th February last, forwarding papers on the subject of the participation of the Sultan's subjects at Sur in the traffic in negro slaves in these waters.

2. Nearly a year has elapsed since the Marquess of Lansdowne expressed the view communicated in Sir Thomas Sanderson's despatch to the India Office, dated the 21st November, 1901, and during that time certain developments have taken place which prompt me to submit to you the following observations dealing with the complicity of the Sur community in the illicit traffic in arms and slaves, and with the general political position at present occupied by His Highness in relation to his subjects in that part of Oman.

3. It will be within your knowledge that, notwithstanding opinions expressed at Zanzibar during the annual sittings of the "International Bureau of Supervision under the Brussels Act," and the comfortable statements or reports submitted to that body by French Consuls in Muscat and elsewhere, I have consistently maintained that there has been little or no practical diminution in the annual consignments of human beings shipped from East Africa to Sur and the vicinity; in which direction the Arabian and Persian Gulf markets look for their regular supply of slaves.

I have not preserved in this opinion without strong grounds. In the first place, a succession of incidents connected with Sur, for instance, two expeditions for the examination of coal deposits, robberies occurring among British subjects residing there, and co-operation with the Sultan in matters of administration, have made me a frequent visitor to the port, and I have, therefore, had much better opportunities than any of my predecessors for acquainting myself with its people and politics and with passing events there. Furthermore, during the last three years, I have travelled extensively in the interior of Oman, including a recent and lengthy journey from Abu Thabi on the Pirate Coast via Bereymee to Muscat; and though, in the course of my travels, I have never seen slaves working in gangs on the American principle, as the Rev. Mr. Zwemer once informed me he had recently done, I have nevertheless seen enough to assure myself that the country from Ras-el-Hadd to the Pirate Coast is profusely sprinkled with negroes, and that the supply from Sur and the neighbourhood is regular, and this conviction is corroborated by the fact that the number of slaves that present themselves at this Consulate to claim freedom shows no signs of falling off.

The recent conflict (dealt with in a separate communication) between a fleet of Oman slave dhows and a Portuguese man-of-war near Simuku, south of Mozambique, in which 120 or more Oman Arabs, mostly Suris, were taken prisoners by the latter, and many killed, affords further and fresh evidence in support of my contention, and helps also to throw light on the *modus operandi* of the Arabs. More recently still I am informed that Suri dhows have been detected running arms from Jibuti for the rebel Mulla in Somaliland, and have been captured in the act by our men-of-war. The above facts seem sufficient to warrant the conclusion that at the present moment the reputation of Sur is as deservedly evil as it can well be.

4. Adverting now to the attitude of His Highness the Sultan towards the Slave Trade, it may, according to my experience, be regarded as bearing two somewhat conflicting aspects, indicating—

(1.) A loyal wish to fulfil his obligations in the direction of co-operating with the Political Agent in the grant of freedom papers wherever possible to negroes who apply at this Consulate for them.

(2.) Inability hitherto to take any effective steps to stop the annual importation which goes on and no great inclination perhaps to discountenance and set his face against the status of slavery generally in his dominions.

Under the first head, I should like to emphasize the fact that, though in nearly every case of a slave escaping from the interior to this Consulate, the owner endeavours to concoct a case before the local Government for restitution, I have always found the Sultan quite willing to listen to reason and to act up to his obligations in the matter, in spite of the odium which he often brings upon himself among his own subjects for so doing. In proof of this, I may mention that 216 slaves have been freed during the last four years against 170 in the previous four.

Under the same head, I would repeat that slavery has been a recognized status among the Oman community from time immemorial, that the Sultan's mother was herself a slave originally, and that, as a matter of fact, slaves are very well treated as a rule, with the exception perhaps of the pearl-diving class, who no doubt lead a life of considerable privation for six months in the year.

5. It must be conceded that the present Sultan has hitherto been in a great measure powerless to do much to stop the ingress of newly-captured negroes, and, at any rate, during the time that the question of the French flag has been in process of negotiation between His Highness and the French Government, it would have been ill-advised on our part to put upon him any special pressure in this connection; but I venture to submit that

the recent purchase of a steamer for him, and the fact that the question of the French flag seems to be shaping to a settlement, affords a convenient and fitting opportunity for the address to His Highness of a strong exhortation on the subject of Sur and its connection with the trade in arms and slaves, and as to his own position in regard thereto.

In this connection, while I quite realize that the views of yourself and the Government of India may not improbably differ from mine as to the terms in which such a communication might usefully be couched, I venture nevertheless to submit, with much deference, a draft letter of the nature which I should myself feel inclined to recommend, and to suggest that the subject is of sufficient importance to warrant that the communication be addressed as from the Government of India to the Sultan direct, and forwarded to you for transmission to His Highness with a covering letter from yourself, as in the case of a Kharita. This, of course, besides giving much emphasis to the letter, would strengthen your hands and mine.

Since coming to Muscat I have spared no pains to bring the Sultan to a sense of his own dignity and responsibility in dealing with Sur, and have striven to give him all the assistance that I unobjectionably could in strengthening his authority there by constitutional methods. He has responded to a satisfactory extent, but the danger in the case of a man with a nature like that of Saiyid Feysal, whose tendency is to burk difficulties rather than face them is that, if the Political Agent ceases to be constantly by his side, he may, at some future time, lose from want of energy and perseverance the ground that he has lately gained by the exercise of it.

In view of such a contingency, a letter such as I suggest would, I think, bring forcibly home to him that even, if a consideration of his own personal interests does not encourage him to persevere in keeping a strong hand over his Suri territory without actual and frequent suggestion from the British Consul, his obligations to the British Government and to civilization alone oblige him to do so. At the same time the fact of the communication coming direct from Government would convince him that the exhortation is no personal expression of opinion on the part of the Political Agent, but a *dictum* of Government which he would be ill-advised not to heed, and in the carrying out of which he can depend upon their co-operation and that of their Representative wherever possible. I respectfully commend the subject to your consideration and that of Government.

6. In view of your absence at Shiraz, I shall venture to furnish the Foreign Department with a copy of this letter direct.

Inclosure 10 in No. 51.

Suggested purport of a Communication which might be addressed to the Sultan of Muscat.

(After the usual compliments.)

THE arrival at Muscat of the steamer purchased by your Highness seems to be a fitting occasion for us to address you this communication on the subject of the proper and effective control of the outlying ports of your territory and with special reference to your Treaty obligations in regard to the Slave Trade.

It had been the confident hope of the British Government that this traffic in human beings was steadily on the decline, but it is now clear to us from the reports submitted by our naval and Consular officers that it still thrives to an unfortunate degree; and, while we fully appreciate the loyal manner in which your Highness co-operates with our Representative at Muscat in the grant of manumission papers to those negroes who escape to the British Consulate and are entitled to freedom under Treaty, yet the difficult question of the annual shipments of slaves, captured on the African littoral, to ports in your territory and in craft belonging to your subjects still remains to be dealt with—a question which does not seem ever to have been resolutely faced by your Highness.

According to information at our disposal, it appears that almost all the dhows engaged in this traffic hail from ports on the southern coast of Oman, and especially from Sur, and while within the last few years we have not addressed any special representation to your Highness in this connection, familiar as we are with the difficulties you have had in exercising effective authority over that portion of your territory, yet incidents have recently come to our knowledge which make it incumbent upon us to draw your serious attention to the subject.

Within the last few months information has been received by us and has, no doubt, reached your Highness also, that a powerful gang of Arab slave dealers has been captured

by a Portuguese man-of-war on the Mozambique coast, after a severe fight in which several persons were killed on both sides, twelve of the dhows burnt and some 120 of the Arabs made prisoners by the Portuguese. It is understood that these dhows belong to Oman, and that the Arabs are nearly all subjects of your Highness, chiefly Suris. No further evidence than this can be required to convince us and yourself that there exists at Sur a regular and widespread organization for the capture and shipment of negroes from the African coast.

Furthermore, these same Suris, or their fellows, seem now to have embarked also upon smuggling of arms, for we learn that within the last few months our men-of-war, cruising in Aden waters, have captured a dhow or dhows manned by your subjects, in the act of smuggling arms and ammunition across to the Somali coast for the use of the Mulla Muhammad Hassan (?), now in armed revolt against the authorities of our Protectorate.

In view of these incontestable facts your Highness must realize that the ports of your territory, especially Sur, possess a very unenviable reputation in Indian waters, and that such a state of things is a blot on your administration to which it is high time to apply a remedy.

In regard to Sur we would remind your Highness that, during the last two or three years, you have been afforded the most convenient and exceptional opportunities for consolidating your authority there, opportunities which we are glad to believe you have in some measure made use of.

The two expeditions which have taken place with the investigation of the coal deposits have rendered the visits of our men-of-war of more frequent occurrence than has ever been the case before, and it has always been our wish and pleasure that you should avail yourself of such favourable opportunities to visit Sur, and bring yourself into closer acquaintance with your subjects and interests there. Furthermore, our Agent at Muscat has had and has our full approval in supporting and assisting your Highness, in any way in which he can unobjectionably do so, in the consolidation of your authority by constitutional methods.

We are fain to hope that your Highness has generally profited by these favourable circumstances, and that the measures taken in connection with the improvement of the administration of your Customs there, in which connection the returns furnished to your Highness by the Government of Bombay must have considerably improved your position there.

Finally, within the last few weeks, by the grant of a substantial loan on easy terms, we have been able to put your Highness in the position to purchase a serviceable steamer. The facilities which its possession should afford you in keeping touch with the outlying ports of your territory should enable you to bring centres of lawlessness, like Sur, under your effective control, to an extent which has hitherto not been possible.

We exhort your Highness, therefore, to persevere in the good work which you have lately begun and for the continuance of which you are now well equipped, and to lose no endeavour to free your administration from the odium which your sea-going subjects seek by their lawlessness to bring upon it. At the same time we beg you to realize that the British Government, having with their ships and money assisted so materially to place you in a position to consolidate your authority in the directions under reference, will be unable to regard with satisfaction or indifference any retrograde policy on your Highness' part or failure to act up to your Treaty obligations in the matter of the Slave Trade as far as lies in your power.

Note.—It is presumed that the Government of India by the time this reaches them will have information at their disposal which will enable them to finally verify the statements made in the foregoing as to the nationality and numbers of the dhows and Arabs concerned in the running of slaves and of arms. The information I have given, I believe, to be precisely correct.

No. 52.

Admiralty to Foreign Office.—(Received October 21.)

Sir,

WITH reference to Admiralty letter of this date, inclosing copy of telegram from the Commander-in-chief, Mediterranean, relative to the proceedings of Italian men-of-war at Hodeida, I am commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to request

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Admiralty, October 18, 1902.

you will state to the Marquess of Lansdowne that consequent on a semi-official communication between the two Departments, their Lordships' approval of the Commander-in-chief's instructions to the Commanding Officer of His Majesty's ship "Harrier" has been telegraphed to Sir C. Domville.

I am, &c.
(Signed) EVAN MACGREGOR.

No. 53.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received October 21.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Lord George Hamilton, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of inclosures in a letter from the Foreign Secretary, Simla, dated the 18th ultimo, relative to the affairs of South-West Arabia.

India Office, October 20, 1902.

Inclosure 1 in No. 53.

Government of Bombay to Government of India.

(Confidential.)

Sir,

Bombay Castle, July 14, 1902.

I AM desired to submit, in continuation of my despatch, dated the 19th ultimo, a report from the Political Resident, Aden, on the subject of the recent conduct of the Haushabi Chief.

2. I am to say that the Governor in Council thinks that Captain Pottinger showed excellent qualities in this affair, but that he does not attach any very great importance to the incidents themselves. They are such as must occasionally be expected to occur among half civilized frontier independent tribes. He would support the suggestion that two months' stipend of the Haushabi Chief should be stopped and compensation given therefrom to those who have suffered by the action of the Chief. The Resident might also make the Mansub Syad Ali Humedi a suitable present in recognition of his conduct. For the rest his Excellency would be content with warning both the Abdali and Haushabi that their internal differences must not interfere with the safety of the roads leading to Aden, and that compensation to those who suffer on the routes will be enforced, and that if the peace of the routes is seriously disturbed, further measures may be held necessary to enforce sufficient order to secure the safety of Aden trade.

3. In view of the decision communicated in your letter, dated the 7th March last, that no payment shall be made to His Highness the Sultan of Lahej on account of the expedition against the Subaihis, prompted by the Political Resident, it is very improbable that he will undertake in British interests any measures against the Haushabi, which he does not himself desire, to maintain the arrangements of 1895; but as engagements exist with both the Chiefs it does not greatly matter whether the Haushabi Sultan re-establishes his independence of the Abdali or not. His Excellency would favour the policy of consistently supporting the Sultan of Lahej, if necessary, in such disputes with money, arms, and ammunition, because his capital is nearest to Aden and he is more amenable to British influence than the more remote Chiefs, and, in his Excellency's opinion, the most effective and, in the long run, the cheapest way to secure the safety of the routes and the suppression of the traffic in arms is by subsidizing and supporting him in the maintenance of a control over more distant tribes. Still a considerable measure of success can be obtained by dealing with the other tribes direct if the Government of India prefer that policy. It, however, seems quite unnecessary to intervene in the present juncture to the extent suggested by the Political Resident, and to formulate a policy for either Chief. It will be seen from paragraph 8 of Captain Pottinger's Report that the Haushabi Sultan has been told that if he chooses to make a representation it will be considered. A representation might be awaited, as it seems possible that the recent occurrences have been due to a temporary fit of ill-humour, which may pass away and need not be magnified. So long as the Sultans are made clearly to understand that they must not imperil British interests of importance, it would be best if the policy of a

friendly material support to Lahej is not approved, in his Excellency's opinion, to leave them to settle their own differences, as on previous occasions.

I have, &c.
(Signed) S. W. EDGERLEY,
Acting Chief Secretary to Government.

Inclosure 2 in No. 53.

Brigadier-General Maitland to Government of Bombay.

(Confidential.)

Aden, June 22, 1902.

IN continuation of my telegram of the 13th June, I have the honour to report that Captain Pottinger returned to Aden on the following day. His Mission has been on the whole very successful. The attitude of the Haushabi Sultan, Mohsin-bin-Ali, underwent a change as soon as he heard that I was sending out the First Assistant Resident, and the roads were reopened at once.

Captain Pottinger, whose interesting Report is inclosed, also induced the Sultan to agree to a truce with the Abdali for six months, and, although this has not yet been formally arranged, and it is too early at present to speak with certainty as to the continued security of the roads, there is reason to hope that matters will remain in their present condition until the Government has made known its decision on the whole case.

2. The matter at the present moment stands thus:—

The Haushabi has committed serious offences by closing the trade routes through his country, and by conniving at, if not encouraging, the plunder of persons travelling on these roads. He has also refused to accept any longer his position of inferiority with regard to the Sultan of Lahej, and before the road was actually closed he levied dues on a kafilah on his own account.

3. The pressure put on the Haushabi has been sufficient to induce him to reopen the roads and stop depredations. The six months' truce with the Abdali, which he has agreed to, is necessary on account of the tribal war commenced by the skirmishing of the 28th May, in which an Abdali was killed, and the huts round the "Dar" of Nobat Dakim were destroyed. Sultan Mohsin-bin-Ali, however, continues to display a feeling of sullen resentment, as regards both the Abdali and ourselves. He denies having closed the roads, and repudiates responsibility for any outrages which have been committed, attributing the whole of the allegations against him to the enmity of Sultan Ahmad-bin-Fadhl. He also positively refuses to be bound any longer by the intertribal Agreement of 1895, and only awaits the decision of Government in the hope that he may be relieved from it. If disappointed in this respect, it is probable that he will give further trouble.

4. There can, I think, be no doubt that Sultan Mohsin did close the roads, and that he, directly or indirectly, encouraged his people to plunder. I can find no valid excuse or justification for these proceedings, and consider that the Sultan certainly deserves punishment.

5. It is difficult, however, to say what punishment is practicable, and can actually be inflicted. The course that naturally suggests itself is to withhold the Haushabi stipend, and to call on the Abdali to bring his nominee, Sultan Mohsin, to reason. If Sultan Ahmad-bin-Fadhl accepted the obligation (with or without bargaining), and if Sultan Mohsin remained contumacious, or fled to the Turkish districts, we could request Ahmad-bin-Fadhl to depose him, and to select another Chief. Any such line of action, however, presupposes the ascendancy of the Abdalis over the Haushabis to be the same now as it was in 1895. But this is by no means the case. Sultan Mohsin was then deserted by his tribe, and for reasons which I do not yet clearly understand, the Haushabis appear to have willingly submitted to the then Sultan of the Abdalis. The conditions are now quite different. The Haushabis would support Mohsin-bin-Ali and resist the Sultan of Lahej. The latter could probably effect little single-handed, Sultan Ahmad Fadhl, if he consented to act, would have to entertain Yaffai and other mercenaries, for whom he would expect us to pay, and he would require the support of the Aden troop.

6. Sultan Mohsin would no doubt be deposed, but unfortunately there does not appear to be any member of his family who would make a reasonably good Chief, and at the same time be acceptable to the tribe. If the new Sultan were a mere puppet of the Sultan of Lahej, the Haushabis would refuse to obey him, and would render the roads

unsafe. We should thus be no nearer the end than we are now, and might find ourselves obliged to bring back Sultan Mohsin, giving him complete independence of the Abdali, which is what he is striving for.

7. After a careful consideration of the case, I propose to retain the Haushabi stipend of 272 rupees per mensem for two months only, and to make good the claims of persons who have been plundered, or who have paid double dues, out of the amount thus saved. I do not think it would be advisable to withhold the stipend for a longer period than two months.

8. I think the Haushabi should be told that Government are unable to break the Agreement with the Abdali, which he entered into in 1895 of his own free will; that should he again close the road, or permit plundering, we should have no choice but to depose him, and his tribesmen also must expect punishment at our hands. At the same time I would urge Sultan Ahmad Fadhl to voluntarily give up the collection of the Haushabi dues, and to agree to the stipend being paid to Mohsin-bin-Ali direct. It might be pointed out to him that he has no longer much (if any) influence with the Haushabis, and he might be told that Government are unwilling to acquiesce in the prolongation for an indefinite period of his superiority of position over the Haushabi Chief, as he is evidently unable to maintain it, except by our assistance.

9. This should be done in a friendly and confidential manner. It is obviously desirable that Sultan Ahmad Fadhl's surrender of his advantages over Sultan Mohsin should have the appearance of being due to his own generosity, and not to compulsion.

10. If Sultan Mohsin refuses altogether to return to his position with respect to the Abdali, and if Sultan Ahmad Fadhl makes serious difficulties about giving up the collection of the Haushabi dues, &c., pressure can be put on the latter, and the security of the roads preserved, by sending a detachment of the Aden troop to Anad with orders to collect the Haushabi dues, which would then be sent by us to Sultan Mohsin, after any necessary deductions had been made. The detachment could, if necessary, collect the Abdali dues also. If one post at Anad were insufficient for the protection of the road, smaller posts could be established about Tannan and Al Milhah.

11. This arrangement is not, of course, intended to be permanent; it would be maintained only until such time as matters between the Haushabi and the Abdali had been put on a permanently satisfactory footing, and each Chief was fully acting up to his responsibilities.

Inclosure 3 in No. 53.

Captain Pottinger to Brigadier-General Maitland.

Aden, June 16, 1902.

I HAVE the honour to report that in accordance with your instructions I left Aden on the 7th instant and proceeded to Lahej. From there I went to Anad on the 9th instant, and thence to Jol Mudram on the 11th. I left Jol Mudram on the 12th, and arrived back in Aden on the 14th instant.

2. On my arrival at Lahej I found that the caravan route was considered to be blocked north of Anad, and no kafilas were passing in either direction; a large kafila was said to be waiting at Anad, having been detained by order of the Abdali until the route was considered safe. This was the kafila which is referred to in the Sultan's letter of the 7th instant.

3. The kafilas were stopped, not so much on the ground that the Haushabi would levy unauthorized dues, as from the fear of being looted entirely, and it was alleged that certain men of the Basus, Gholaibi, Husaimi, Aulagi, and Juberi (Subaihis), as well as some Haushabis, were at different parts of the road and had openly told the camel-drivers that if they advanced farther they would be looted. However, on the evening of the 8th June one Sayad Ali Humedi had passed through Anad on his way to Lahej from Musemir, and had informed the kafila men that they might now proceed without fear of being molested. The whole kafila, consisting of about 250 camels, accordingly left Anad shortly after my arrival there on the 9th instant and proceeded north. They met with no opposition. This Sayad Ali Humedi, though a Mansuri (Subaihi), is one of the chief Munsabs in the Haushabi country and lives at Suk ad Dawil, in the district known as Raha; he had come to Lahej on some business of his own on the 5th instant, and while there was sent for by Sultan Ahmad Fadhl, who requested him to advise the

Haushabi Sultan to put an end to the disturbances on the road, and to refrain from inciting the tribes against the Abdali. The Munsab then proceeded to Musemir, and apparently met with some success, as it was on his return journey back to Lahej on the 8th June that he said the kafila could proceed.

4. While at Anad I inquired into the alleged loot of the two camel loads of kat, reported in Sultan Ahmad Fadhl's letter of the 28th May, and I went over the ground where the fighting took place. The facts appear to be that the two camel-drivers with loads of kat were going along the road when they were stopped by a party of men at a place called Nobut Dakim or Horrokat; this consists of merely a small tower or "Dar," and a few thatched sheds, and is one of the posts from which the Haushabi is able to command the road; the party who were there on this occasion were said to be chiefly Basus and Haushabis with, perhaps, some of the Juberi. On being deprived of their kat, the camel-men went on and complained at Anad, whereupon all the available fighting men there (Abdalis) went to try and recover the looted property; they met the plunderers who withdrew to Nobut Dakim and some desultory firing went on for several hours in which one of the Abdali was killed. The Haushabis then retreated and the Abdali came up and burnt down the thatched sheds round the "Dar." They then pursued the Haushabis for a short distance, but reinforcements having come up, both sides drew back and the fighting came to an end, the Abdalis retreating on Anad and the Haushabi on Tannan. Sultan Ahmad Fadhl's letter of the 28th May is somewhat incorrect as regards the fighting; the Al Akd, he refers to, is merely the name of a sacred tree about half-way between Nobut Dakim and Tannan; there are no buildings and no men there, and it was from Anad that the Abdalis came to the rescue and pursued the Haushabis about as far as Al Akd.

5. While at Anad on the 10th instant, the interpreter of the Boundary Commission visited my camp; he was on his way from Dthali to Aden on a few days leave, and reported that while coming along the road near Sailat Bilah, between Sahar and Munif, accompanied by one of the postal sowars, the latter was challenged by a party of armed men who called on him to halt. On his refusing to do so they commenced to fire, whereupon the sowar went off at a gallop, but not before some thirty or forty shots had been fired at him. The interpreter, Mr. Abdul Rub, was able to identify some of the party as Haushabis, whom he knew personally. I accordingly requested Mr. Abdul Rub to accompany me until I could meet the Haushabi Sultan, Mohsin-bin-Ali; at the same time I wrote to Mohsin-bin-Ali saying I wished him to meet me at Nobut Dakim; I also pointed out to him that acts such as these were very prejudicial to his interests, and requested him to take the action necessary to punish the men concerned and prevent any similar occurrence. In his reply received on the 10th instant the Sultan expressed his willingness to punish the men.

6. As Mohsin-bin-Ali had informed me that he was ill and unable to travel, I decided to move camp to Jol Mudram instead of Nobut Dakim, and arrived there on the afternoon of the 11th instant. I then saw Mohsin-bin-Ali, and discussed the whole subject at length with him.

7. He denied all knowledge of any trouble on the road, which he declared had never been closed at all, but that the story had been started by his enemies to do him injury; that he had not levied any dues beyond what he was entitled to, and which he had always been receiving; that the story of the loot of the two camel loads of kat was a pure fabrication; or, if it ever happened, was done by Subaihis not under his control, and that there were no Haushabis concerned, but that the Abdali had made it a pretext for destroying the buildings at Nobut Dakim; that he had complained to the Resident of the matter, but that, instead of getting redress, he found himself accused of having committed acts of which he knew nothing; that he was always ready to guard the road, and, in fact, had always done so, but that all acts of aggression committed by Subaihis and others were invariably laid to his account. I then asked what steps he had taken with regard to the fifteen men who had fired at the postal runner, and he replied that this story was also false, and there was no more truth in it than in the others. I told him I had good evidence to prove that it was a fact, but he refused to believe it until I directed Mr. Abdul Rub to relate the circumstances as they had happened. Mohsin-bin-Ali then said that the men should be punished; I pointed out to him that this ought to have been done on receipt of my letter, instead of his refusing to even make inquiries into the question.

8. He then began to complain of his position under the Agreement of 1895, and said that he was a Sultan in name only, and that the Abdali had all the best of his country, and was usurping his rights, and that it would be better for the Abdali to take the country entirely and leave him in peace without the trouble of guarding the roads.

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I informed him that this was a question that I was not prepared to go into at that time, but that if he wished to bring forward any proposals on the subject, they would receive due consideration. For the present we were chiefly concerned in making arrangements for the proper protection of the roads, and that, pending any orders to the contrary, Mohsin-bin-Ali was responsible for the portion within his limits, and if he did not show himself able to guard it efficiently, he himself would be the chief loser, and it would be for Government to decide whether he should continue as Sultan. He professed himself quite indifferent as to whether he remained as Sultan or not, as he said that he was now only Sultan in name without the power.

9. On my asking him, he admitted the truth of the report that before leaving Aden he had said that he intended to remain in his house and let the tribes do as they liked on the road; but he said that this remark was made in a fit of ill-temper and he meant nothing by it, but that his enemies had made great capital out of it to do him harm. I then said that I had heard that he was arranging a truce with the Abdali, and asked him what the terms were to be; he replied that no truce had been as yet arrived at. I urged on him the advisability of making a truce and putting an end to further fighting and hostilities on the road, and eventually he agreed to accept a truce for six months if the Abdali would do the same.

The general result of the interview was that Mohsin-bin-Ali—

- (1.) Agrees to a truce for six months.
- (2.) Agrees to refrain from levying any dues other than those that he is admittedly entitled to.
- (3.) Accepts the responsibility for his share of the road, and undertakes to make restitution for any loot proved to have taken place within his limits or committed by his subjects.
- (4.) Undertakes to punish the men who fired at the postal runner.

10. The route is now clear and kafilas are able to go through again, but it remains to be seen how long Mohsin-bin-Ali will carry out his promises. He takes up a position of absolute denial and puts everything in the shape of a loot as having never been really committed at all; or if committed, says the aggressors were Subaihis or tribes over whom he has no control. He then asks for proof that the offenders were men of his tribe and this is a matter which must always be difficult to prove, but in the instance of the two camel loads of kat, I consider it clearly established that Haushabis were actually engaged, and even the Subaihis, who were present, subsequently retreated into Haushabi country, so that the responsibility for this outrage lies on the Haushabi, and Mohsin-bin-Ali should make restitution. Moreover, many of the Subaihis on whom he is ready to lay the blame of these aggressions, have settled temporarily in the Haushabi country are under his control. My inquiries also show that Mohsin-bin-Ali has great personal influence over his own tribe and also over the neighbouring Subaihis and I do not believe that these repeated acts of aggression could take place without his connivance. I impressed on him strongly the necessity of exerting this influence towards the maintenance of peace and order, but I cannot at present say for certain whether the Sultan will keep to his word or for how long he would do so. At present the road is clear, and if in the course of the next few days there are no fresh outbreaks, I should consider it a sign that orders have been issued to the different tribes and sections to refrain from further acts of aggression, and that the truce will be maintained. Should, however, further plundering take place, it will probably be necessary to take far severer measures with Mohsin-bin-Ali.

11. The following items of information may be useful.

The names of the sections of the Haushabi tribe are as follows:—

Amri, Mashari, Ankasi, Kurisha, Ahl Anjari, Lakdur, Bukara, Ahl Shibani, Ajdun, Abzan, Juwari, Kuzan, Zubirah, Aurida, Sarahina, Faraj, Hayatama, Maarama, Kadakana, Hadur, Hayara, Thumira, Ahl Yehia, and Ahl Fujjar.

12. Of these the last two are the most important, the Ahl Fujjar consisting of the Sultan himself and his immediate family, who reside at Musmir, while the Ahl Yehia consists of his cousins and other relatives who live at Bet ad Daula in the district of Raha; this district lies to the east of Jebel Sarhar.

13. Three of the cousins of the Sultan, by name Ahmad bin Muhammad, Ali bin Muhammad, and Sarur bin Muhammad, left Bet ad Daula about two years ago, owing to difficulties in the way of their subsistence. They came to Lahej and practically naturalized themselves as Abdalis. Sultan Ahmad Fadhl presented them with a rifle a-piece and fixed an allowance of 25 dollars a-month for their maintenance. A short time ago, however, Ahmad bin Muhammad took his rifle, and that of his brother Ali, to Bet ad Daula, and sold it there; whereupon Ali reported the matter to Ahmad Fadhl

who sent a party of twenty men to Bet ad Daula to bring back Ahmad bin Muhammad. The people of Bet ad Daula, however, refused to give him up. Ahmad Fadhl consequently wrote to Mohsin bin Ali saying he no longer wished to keep the man at Lahej, but requesting the return of the two rifles. Sultan Mohsin sent two rifles which Ahmad Fadhl returned with a message that as Mohsin bin Ali had shown his willingness to give the rifles up he might now keep them. Ahmad bin Muhammad stayed some time with the Haushabis, but finding the same difficulties as before in the way of his maintenance he returned to Lahej, and expressing contrition threw himself on the mercy of Ahmad Fadhl. The latter pardoned him and gave the brothers two other rifles. Ahmad and Ali are now both in the garrison at Anad, having been sent there at their own request.

This matter is referred to in Mohsin bin Ali's letter to the Resident received on the 3rd June.

14. Mohsin bin Ali is on good terms with all the sub-sections of the Haushabi (who are quite obedient to his orders). They are all more or less inimical to the Abdali, and have for some time been urging Mohsin bin Ali to agitate in the hope of getting back Anad, but for Mohsin's influence plundering on the road would be of almost daily occurrence. The only section who are somewhat favourably disposed towards the Abdali are the Ahl Fujjar, some of whom are entitled to, and receive from his hands, an allowance from the transit dues collected.

Inclosure 4 in No. 53.

Government of Bombay to Government of India.

(Confidential.)

Sir,

Bombay Castle, July 14, 1902.

I AM desired to advert to your despatch dated the 7th March last, on the subject of the desirability, after the delimitation of the frontier of the Protectorate has been concluded, of amending and revising the arrangements hitherto in force with some of the tribes or clans, and asking whether the Political Resident or the Bombay Government have any general recommendations to make in view of the altered circumstances which are likely to arise from the demarcation of the frontier.

2. I am to submit a report, dated the 6th June last, by the Political Resident, from which it will be seen that he is anxious for some clearer indication of the wishes of the Government of India, and it is therefore evident that he himself has no clearly formed ideas of the advantages which he thinks the greater security of the frontier line will enable us to secure.

3. His Excellency the Governor in Council thinks that it is necessary to first of all state, and to some extent illustrate, the policy which has hitherto governed the relations of the British Government and these tribes. The policy followed for many years seems to be well stated in the following extract from a Report at present much quoted—Colonel (then Captain) Wahab's Survey Report of 1893. In speaking of the country surveyed by him he says: "The inhabitants are Arabs, divided into various tribes, independent as far as their internal affairs are concerned, but in receipt of allowances from Government of larger or smaller amount, in consideration of which they engage to abstain from raids on British territory and on kafilas trading between Aden and the interior; and also not to sell or mortgage any territory to other foreign Powers without the knowledge or consent of the British Government. Those tribes in the neighbourhood of Aden, such as the Abdali, and some sections of the Subaihi and Fadhl, are amenable to British influence, but those inhabiting the more remote and inaccessible hills have little or no respect for our power, and, though willing enough to accept subsidies which are nothing more or less than blackmail, refuse unequivocally to admit British officers into their territory, or to render any service in return."

4. That appears to his Excellency the Governor in Council to correctly describe the old position. Government were concerned simply to see that the tribes did not part with their territories except to the British, that the trade routes were safe within a reasonable distance of Aden, and that outrages against the Government or British subjects were punished. It has been usual to subsidize one of the nearer tribes, generally Lahej, to inflict such punishment. Illustrations of this attitude will be found in the grant of material assistance to enable the Sultan of Lahej to punish the Atifi and the Murkashi tribes, and assistance was given, in the interests of the safety of the trade routes, to enable the Sultan to bring under control the Subaihis and Haushabis; but, where British

interests were not touched, Government have not sometimes hesitated to look on and simply accept results, as when the Sultan of Mokalla defeated the rebellious Ahmudis and occupied the towns evacuated by them and their Chiefs. So, too, as regards successions, it has been the custom to simply accept the settlement made in the tribe, and the point submitted for orders has been, not the succession, but the continuance or otherwise of the subsidy paid to the former Ruler. In other words, the tribes have been treated as "independent as far as their internal affairs are concerned." It may be inferred, however, from the recent correspondence regarding the affairs of Shehr and Mokalla that this policy may be subject to modification in the future, and the matters reported in my letters, dated the 8th July last, and of to-day's date, regarding the recent conduct of the Haushabi tribe may be considered such as to necessitate a larger measure of interference.

5. On the other hand, one of the most recent telegrams,* from the Secretary of State in connection with the Delimitation Commission, contains the following passage:—"We have no desire to increase our interference or control over the tribes within our lines and have no thoughts of administration." His Excellency the Governor in Council consequently feels some doubt how far a policy of active control of these tribes, whose obligations are only such as they have willingly undertaken in return for a subsidy and amount practically only to a promise to accept British protection and therefore not to sell their territory to other Powers, is really contemplated. His Excellency also doubts whether a delimitation of the frontier would in itself be a justification, as suggested in the Political Resident's paragraph 5, for sending troops about the Protectorate, improving the roads, or in any way interfering with the internal affairs of the tribes, except for the objects recognized by established custom, i.e., maintenance of prestige by punishment of outrages either directly or indirectly, maintenance of the safety of the trade routes, and prevention of acts unfriendly to the Turks (e.g., smuggling of arms through the Protectorate into Yemen). Intervention has been approved in the past for all the above objects, even to the extent of aiding one or other of the tribes with men, arms, and ammunition; but the Governor in Council thinks there are too few instances of authoritative intervention on any other grounds to render it necessary to qualify the above statement of past policy.

6. For the future, no doubt, one result of a successful delimitation would be that in dealing with the tribes within the line of delimitation apprehensions of their secession to the Turks would no longer be a factor for consideration, and in all probability their relations with the Aden Residency would gradually grow closer and more intimate; but his Excellency would prefer to leave any such development to the natural forces which must gradually work to that result, rather than use the completion of the delimitation as an occasion on which to revise and amend arrangements with the tribes in a manner which might lead them to realize that the delimitation had isolated and weakened them, and that the opportunity had been used to reduce their previous independence. His Excellency the Governor in Council, therefore, would not support the formulation of any fresh policy in dealing with the tribes near Aden, but will, of course, do his best to carry out any modifications which the Government of India may desire to see introduced either immediately or gradually as opportunity may offer.

7. I am to add, with reference to the Political Resident's paragraph 6, that his Excellency the Governor in Council presumes that the Government of India will maintain their decision of the 7th March last. If, however, in future, His Highness the Sultan of Lahej is to maintain his influence and control over these sub-tribes and to be held responsible for the safety of the trade routes in their territory, and his assistance is to be enlisted in the prevention of the traffic in arms, material assistance to him, when matters come to a crisis, as they must occasionally do, and action is necessary, will probably have to be afforded.

I have, &c.
(Signed) S. W. EDGERLEY,
Acting Chief Secretary to Government.

* Repeated to the Government of India under my letter dated May 14, 1902.

Inclosure 5 in No. 53.

Brigadier-General Maitland to Government of Bombay.

(Confidential.)

Aden, June 6, 1902.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge your letter, dated the 23th March last, inclosing a letter from the Government of India in the Foreign Department, dated the 7th March, 1902.

2. In the second paragraph of this letter, the Government of India observed that, if the demarcation of the frontier, for which a Commission had been appointed, were successfully carried out, the pressure of the Turks on the tribes within our Protectorate should be removed, and there would be an improvement in the general position as regards the interior of the Protectorate. In these circumstances it might be desirable to amend or revise the arrangements in force with some of the tribes, and before authorizing a definite announcement to the Sultan of Lahej that he would remain responsible for the trade routes in the Subaihi country, the Government of India wished to be informed whether the Bombay Government, or the Political Resident, had any general recommendations to make in view of the altered circumstances which are likely to arise from the demarcation of the frontier.

3. In the third paragraph of their letter the Government of India decline to grant to the Sultan of Lahej a certain sum of money representing the expenses said to have been incurred by him in coercing the Subaihi tribesmen who were rendering the trade routes unsafe.

4. Your communication forwarding the letter desires me to submit such recommendations of the kind mentioned in the second paragraph, as I may have to make.

5. I regret that the reply has been delayed; but it seemed, at the time your communication was received, somewhat doubtful whether the proposed demarcation would be proceeded with, and even at the present moment it has not been commenced. If the demarcation of the frontier be successfully carried through, we should, I presume, be able to send our officers and troops all over the Protectorate, without bringing forth inquiries and complaints from the Turkish Government. We should also be in a position to improve the principal roads, &c., at our pleasure, without fear of complications. But as regards the protection of the trade routes, I do not think that the demarcation of the frontier will make any material difference; unless, as seems to me possible, we have to raise levies to maintain the line of the frontier, and to prevent incursions and encroachments. In this case the employment given to the more restless spirits of the tribes would tend towards the security of the roads. However, I understand that the Government of India look on the question as connected with the revision of our arrangements with some of the tribes, and I cannot at present think of any practicable revision that would improve the situation with respect to the routes passing through the Subaihi country. In these circumstances I have no recommendations to offer.

Perhaps the Government of India might be asked to indicate the nature of the revision of arrangements with the tribes which they have in contemplation.

6. With regard to the third paragraph of the letter, I would respectfully submit that the preparations made by the Abdali Sultan for his expedition against the Subaihis, in the latter part of 1900, were due to an invitation from the then Resident, whose letter is dated the 10th October, while the discussion between his Excellency the Viceroy and his Excellency the Governor of Bombay did not take place till the following month. The decision of the Government of India reached Aden after all the preparations for the expedition had been made by the Sultan, but before it actually left Lahej. It appears that the Sultan then hastened to Aden and urged on the Resident that the expedition should be permitted to proceed. To this General Penton finally agreed, and also gave it the support of the Aden troop. In these circumstances it is, I venture to think, natural for the Sultan to look to Government to be reimbursed his out-of-pocket expenses, which he places at 29,956 dollars (say 40,000 rupees), and if his Excellency the Governor in Council agrees in this view, the Government of India might perhaps be pleased to reconsider the matter.

Inclosure 6 in No. 53.

Government of India to Government of Bombay.

Sir,

Simla, September 9, 1902.

I AM directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letters in the Political Department regarding—

(a.) The recent conduct of the Haushabi Chief and his relation with the Abdali Sultan;

(b.) The question whether, as a result of the demarcation of the frontier of the Aden Protectorate, it may be desirable to amend or to revise the arrangements which have hitherto been in force with some of the protected tribes and clans.

2. I am to advert in the first place to the general question of policy, which is discussed in your letter dated the 14th July last, and to observe that the terms of my letter dated the 7th March last, to which yours is a reply, appear to have been somewhat misinterpreted by the Political Resident at Aden and by the Government of Bombay. My letter was primarily concerned with two suggestions which had been made by the Government of Bombay in a previous communication, viz.:—

(1.) That the Sultan of Lahej should be informed that he will remain responsible, as heretofore, for the safety of the trade routes in the Subaihi country, and that subject to the previous consent of Government, he would be permitted, when necessary, to proceed against the Subaihi, and would receive such assistance in money and ammunition as might be considered reasonable. It was also proposed, as a general principle, that the Political Resident should be permitted to utilize the Aden troop as a moral support to the Sultan.

(2.) That the Sultan should be repaid 5,000 rupees on account of the expedition which he undertook in November, 1900, at the invitation of General Penton, against the Subaihi tribe.

The second suggestion was definitely rejected; while, as regards the first, it was indicated that the situation was likely to be modified by the delimitation of the frontier, which might render it desirable to amend or to revise the arrangements hitherto in force with some of the tribes and clans in the Protectorate. In making this observation, the Government of India had in view the expediency of removing the anomaly whereby the Subaihi receive stipends for preserving the roads, while the Abdali are held responsible for maintaining the Agreement; with this end in view, the Government of India considered that it might be well either to conclude direct engagements with all the Subaihi clans, or to revert to the Agreement of 1881, by which the Subaihi were placed under the control of the Sultan of Lahej. It was anticipated that, with a defined frontier, which should put an end to risks of complications with the Turks, the British authorities would themselves be able, without the intervention of the Abdali, to send officers to investigate, and to exact retribution for, any local depredations which the Subaihi might be tempted to commit. My letter has, however, been read as suggesting a general revision of the policy of non-intervention in the internal affairs of the tribes and arguments are advanced against such a change.

3. It would certainly be premature, while the delimitation is still unaccomplished, to institute a change which might result in a marked extension of the responsibilities of the British Government; and I am to convey the assurance that no such change is at present contemplated. I am at the same time to observe that the existing position, whereby the Abdali Sultan is held responsible for the maintenance of an Agreement to which he is not a party, seems to be susceptible of improvement, and that it will be for consideration, when the frontier has been demarcated or when a convenient opportunity occurs, whether the arrangement should not be revised, either by making the Abdali entirely responsible for the behaviour of the Subaihi and discontinuing the stipends of the latter, or by concluding direct Agreements with all the Subaihi clans. In a letter dealing with the trade in arms near Aden, the Governor in Council has suggested that the traffic might possibly be checked by extending and consolidating the authority of the Abdali Sultan to the west, and of the Sultan of Shehr and Mokalla on the east. This seems to indicate that the Government of Bombay would be prepared to reimpose the authority of the Abdali over the Subaihi. The Government of India, as at present advised, are disposed to agree that this measure might be advantageously adopted at some future date, but they consider that no attempt to introduce it can conveniently be made at the existing juncture. In the meanwhile the Abdali must be held responsible for the maintenance of order on the trade routes in the Subaihi country; but the Governor-

General in Council retains the opinion that there is no present necessity for promising the Abdali Sultan support in money, troops, and ammunition on every occasion when punitive measures may be required.

4. As regards your letters, dated the 19th June and 14th July last, on the subject of the recent conduct of the Haushabi Chief, I am to convey sanction to the proposal that two months' stipend of the Chief should be confiscated, and that the Seyyid Ali Humedi, who succeeded in bringing the Haushabi Chief to reason, should be granted a suitable present. The matter, however, does not end here. It has also to be considered whether, in view of the fact that the Haushabi is now *de facto* independent of the Abdali, the Agreement of 1895, which constituted the Haushabi a feudatory of the Abdali Sultan, should continue to be maintained. Brigadier-General Maitland proposes to inform the Haushabi Chief that Government are unable to break the Agreement of 1895, and that should he again misconduct himself he will be deposed, and his tribesmen will be punished. At the same time, General Maitland proposes to put pressure on the Abdali Sultan to induce him to resign his claims to over-lordship over the Haushabi. The Government of Bombay, on the other hand, would be content with warning both Chiefs that their internal differences must not interfere with the safety of the trade routes; that compensation to plundered travellers will be enforced; and that, in the event of further disturbance, punitive measures may be adopted. The Government of India consider that, as in the case of the Subaihi, they are not called upon at present to make any radical change in the existing arrangements, and they are prepared to accept the view of the Government of Bombay, on the understanding that when the delimitation has been completed, the question will be further examined, and that proposals will then be submitted either for strengthening the authority of the Abdali over the Haushabi, or, if it should be found possible and convenient, to exercise direct control over the Haushabi, for liberating the latter from his position of nominal dependence on the Abdali Sultan.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. B. WOOD,

Under-Secretary to the Government of India.

No. 54.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received October 21.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Lord George Hamilton, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of (1) letter from the Resident, Aden, dated the 20th September; (2) inclosure in an undated letter from the Resident, Aden, received at this Office on the 6th instant, relative to the Aden Delimitation Commission.

India Office, October 20, 1902.

Inclosure 1 in No. 54.

Political Resident, Aden, to India Office.

(Confidential.)

Aden Residency, September 20, 1902.

COPY of Colonel Wahab's Secret letter, dated Camp Dthala, the 17th instant, forwarded, with compliments, to the Secretary, Political and Secret Department, India Office, London. It covers the political diary of the Commission from the 11th to the 16th instant, inclusive.

(For Political Resident, Aden),

(Signed) R. S. POTTINGER, *Captain.*

Note.—Copies of the diary have been forwarded to the Government of India, Foreign Department, and the Government of Bombay.

Inclosure 2 in No. 54.

Diary.

(From September 11 to September 16, 1902, inclusive.)

September 11.—Interviewed Seyid Ahmad, of Lakmat, as Sallah, and gave him a further sum for his maintenance while debarred from returning to his home and property.

September 12.—Interviewed Nasir-bin-Saif, son of the Amir, and advanced him 100 dollars for expenses. Expenditure of this description is not likely to decrease so long as the present situation continues; the Amir is losing the entire revenue of the richest part of his territory, and those of the inhabitants who have been expelled by the Turkish faction are losing the whole of the crops for the year.

A party of sappers and miners went to camp at the head of the Thauba Nakil (an alternative pass from the Hardaba Valley) in order to improve the track.

September 13.—Second party of ration convoy left for Aden. Commenced work on the rifle range which is to serve for the instruction of the escort in the use of the new rifles with which they are about to be rearmed.

September 14.—Interviewed Sheikh Hassan, of the Azraki, and gave him some money for reasons similar to those above-mentioned.

September 15.—Visited the detachment at the Thauba Nakil, and inspected the work on the pass.

Lieutenant Tandy went to camp near Zubed to examine the Thauba and Rabadth passes, and endeavour to find better alignments than the existing tracks.

(Secret.)

Forwarded, with compliments, to the Resident at Aden.

(Signed) R. A. WAHAB, Colonel,
Commissioner, Aden Boundary Commission.

Inclosure 3 in No. 54.

Colonel Wahab to Government of India.

(Secret.)

Sir,

Camp Dthala, September 21, 1902.

WITH reference to Foreign Office No. 266, to Mr. de Bunsen, dated the 25th August, a copy of which has been forwarded to me by the Resident, Aden:

In case any difficulty should be found in recalling the grounds on which the Amir of Dthala claims Jabal Jihaf and Jabal Mafari, I have the honour to again draw attention to my Secret letter, dated Camp Dthala, the 28th February, specially emphasizing paragraph 5; also to the diary of the Commission for the 27th and 30th January.

That the Turkish claims to Jabal Jihaf and Jabal Mafari are not based on valid documentary evidence was fully represented in my Secret letter, dated the 16th March, and in the diary for the 13th March.

I have, &c.

(Signed) R. A. WAHAB, Colonel,
Commissioner, Aden Boundary Commission.

Copy forwarded, with compliments, to the Political Secretary, India Office.
A copy has been forwarded to the Government of Bombay.

No. 55.

Sir N. O'Connor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received October 21.)

(No. 106.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Constantinople, October 21, 1902.

WITH reference to your Lordship's telegram No. 113 of the 20th, and to the concluding paragraph of my telegram No. 105 of the 19th, the stage at which the Aden frontier negotiations have arrived is critical, but I still have some hope of the Sultan's compliance with our demands that the Turkish troops should withdraw from the four stations recently occupied by them, and that the frontier north-eastwards, from the Dhali Plateau, should be delimited.

If orders to remain for the present at Hodeidah could be sent immediately *en clair* to the Commander of the "Harrier," it would be of assistance to me.

No. 56.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received October 22.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Lord George Hamilton, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, paraphrase of a telegram from the Governor-General of India, dated the 21st instant, regarding the Perso-Afghan frontier dispute.

India Office, October 22, 1902.

Inclosure in No. 56.

Government of India to Lord G. Hamilton.

(Telegraphic.) P.

October 21, 1902.

WRITING on the 8th October, Benn reports that situation in Seistan has become critical, owing to Afghans with armed guards stopping all water below Kohak at Shahgul Bund; it is possible that alarming reports, which, however, are not true, may have reached Tehran that Afghans threatened to fire on Yamini Nizam and Karguzar. The Akhundzada has absolutely refused to allow water to flow past Shahgul Bund to Mian Kungi, and reprisals are threatened by the Persians. The situation appears to be critical, and if, as is likely, there should be a forward movement of the Persian troops, the results might be most unfortunate. The letter from the Ameer, which the Afghan envoy[s] promised ten days ago, has not arrived, and I have consequently felt compelled to address, through the British Agent in Cabul, a strong remonstrance to the Ameer as follows:—

"On receiving these instructions you will ask for an immediate audience of the Ameer to convey to him a message from the Government of India of the utmost importance. At the audience you will say that for the last 2½ months the Government of India have waited patiently for a reply to the Viceroy's first letter of the 31st July, and are at a loss to understand why the Ameer has failed to return an answer on the subject of the appointment of an Arbitrator in the Seistan dispute.

"You will point out that the intervention of the Government of India in this case has been demanded by Treaty stipulation, and that it has been dictated entirely in the Ameer's own interests, but that the situation is rapidly becoming acute, because the Afghan Government has delayed to take any notice of it, and that, if it has not already developed, it may at any time develop into a collision between the Afghan and Persian troops that may lead to complications by which the Ameer himself and Afghan interests would certainly not be gainers.

"You will add that it is impossible for the Government of India to accept the responsibility of allowing peace and the interests of the Afghan people and territory in Seistan to be thus imperilled, and that, unless an immediate reply is received from his Highness accepting the offices of the Arbitrator appointed by the Government of India and making the necessary arrangements for the appointment of his Afghan

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colleagues, Major McMahon will be authorized to start at once, so that further trouble may be prevented, and the position of Great Britain as Arbitrator in the tracts under dispute may be vindicated."

McMahon has been warned that he may have to start at an early date, as he can begin under cover of the delimitation of the boundary from Mashkel to Koh-i-Malik-Siab, for which his colleagues should be appointed by the Persian Government.

No. 57.

Memorandum by Mr. Ball on the Origin of the Perso-Egyptian Tombac Treaty of 1887.

SIR E. BARING stated in his No. 17, Commercial, of the 10th June, 1886, that the Persian Consul-General at Cairo had complained that a higher duty had been placed in Egypt on Tombac than was warranted by the Turco-Persian Treaty of 1876, and that, until Egypt had entered on a separate Treaty on the subject, she was bound by the terms of the Turkish Treaty; that the main argument of the Egyptian Law Officers was that a Treaty made by the Porte with another Power, subsequent to the Firman of 1873 (giving Egypt the right to conclude Commercial Conventions), was not binding on Egypt; and that Nubar Pasha, moreover, contended that, independently of any Treaty which imposed customs duties, the Egyptian Government had the right to impose such octroi duty as it pleased. Sir E. Baring, continuing, said that he had pointed out, both to Nubar Pasha and to the Persian Consul-General, both of whom had consulted him, that he could not give an opinion on the principle involved without reference to Her Majesty's Government, but that he thought the question might be solved if Egypt were to reduce the duty to the rate that prevailed between 1876 and 1885, which the Persian Government might perhaps accept, and which might be of advantage to Egypt in a fiscal sense.

Sir Julian Pauncefote, in minuting this despatch, said:—

"It is most important to insist on the contention of the Egyptian Law Advisers that, since the Firman of 1873, the Porte cannot make new Commercial Treaties binding on Egypt, having delegated to that country the right to make new Commercial Treaties, and to modify the old ones.

"On the other hand, the old Treaties remain in force until so modified or superseded by new ones.

"The best course, in the present case, would be for the Egyptian Government to regulate the exportation of Persian tobacco into Egypt by a new Treaty, and in the meanwhile to levy only the same duty as was imposed by the old Treaty of the Porte before 1873, plus such amount of octroi duty as they may think proper to impose, in order to bring the combined duties up to the required amount. That would be consistent with the principle that the old Treaties are binding until modified. But Baring's proposal that the duty which prevailed from 1876 to 1885 should be imposed seems quite arbitrary, and does not rest on the principle above mentioned."

Thereupon, Lord Rosebery having stated that he understood Sir E. Baring's proposal was made in the interest both of the revenue and of the principle, Sir Julian Pauncefote observed that the Egyptian Government could alter the duties existing, under the Turkish Treaties in 1873, by a new Convention, but not arbitrarily by Decree.

Hereupon, Sir Edward Hertslet argued that the Sultan had no power to alter the stipulations of Treaties by a simple Firman, and that all the Firman of 1873 did was to authorize the Khedive to enter into Commercial Arrangements with foreign Powers, and, looking at the terms of the Firman, Sir Edward thought the Persians might fairly argue that, until the Khedive concluded a Commercial Convention with the Shah, the Turkish Treaties were binding on Egypt, provided, of course, that they contained the usual express stipulations that such Treaties shall receive their execution in Egypt as well as in other parts of the Ottoman dominions.

Sir E. Hertslet then quoted a Law Officers' Report on the subject (see annexed Report of 1884),* and he pointed out, as regarded separate Commercial Arrangements with the Khedive, that on the 3rd March, 1884, a Commercial Convention was concluded between Greece and Egypt, relating among other things to tobacco, and that on the same day an Agreement was signed between Great Britain and Egypt securing

* Law Officers, November 1884.

No. 58*.

The Earl of Cromer to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received October 22.)(No. 16. Commercial.)
(Telegraphic.) P.

Cairo, October 22, 1902.

WITH reference to previous correspondence on the subject of Persian Customs, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that in the work entitled "Legislation Ottomane," which is used by the Egyptian Government, it is stated that the Treaty of Erzeroum—which contained nine articles—was signed on the 26th May, 1846, whilst the ratifications were exchanged at the beginning of March of the following year. In Hertlet's Treaties the date of the 31st March, 1847, is ascribed to the Treaty in question.

most-favoured-nation treatment to their commerce; that the Austrians had subsequently claimed most-favoured-nation treatment, founding their claim on the Commercial Treaty between Austria and Turkey of 1862; that Sir Julian Pauncefote on that occasion had thought it would be unsafe to throw doubts on the right of any of the Powers to most-favoured-treatment in all matters in Egypt. Sir Edward concluded as follows: "Nevertheless, in order to remove any doubt on the point, the United States, Italy, Portugal, and the Netherlands acceded to the Treaty which Egypt had concluded with Greece on the 3rd March, 1884, thus admitting, I conclude, that so long as other Powers may delay the conclusion of separate Conventions with Egypt, a doubt will always be raised as to whether the Treaties concluded between those Powers and Turkey are still to receive their execution in Egypt, notwithstanding the Firman of 1873. Austria, I believe, still maintains that there is no necessity for her to accede to the Convention between Egypt and Greece of 1884."

Sir J. Pauncefote hereupon stated that he had conferred with Sir E. Baring, who had agreed that the best plan would be for Egypt to maintain her position, that she was not bound by Turkish Treaties concluded since the Firman of 1873, and to express her willingness to conclude a new arrangement with Persia, and, in the meanwhile, to arrange for a duty on tombac, as suggested in Sir E. Baring's despatch, without prejudice to any question raised in the discussion.

Mr. Portal was thereupon (Foreign Office, No. 27, Commercial, 21st August, 1886) instructed in the sense of the above. Sir E. Baring, in his No. 1, Commercial, of the 7th January, 1887, said the Persian Consul-General had proposed that the right of importation should be a monopoly, and Sir Evelyn Baring thought that the Egyptian Government might probably agree, provided they received a certain share in the profits.

Sir E. Baring, who was instructed in reply to represent to the Government of Egypt that Her Majesty's Government objected on general grounds to monopolies, wrote to say the matter had gone too far to render it advisable for Her Majesty's Government to interfere. The Foreign Office concurred.

Sir E. Baring sent home the text of the Tombac Convention between Turkey and Egypt in his No. 12, Commercial, of the 21st April, 1887.

In his No. 14, Commercial, of the 26th April, 1887, he forwarded copy of a Decree to the effect that the importation of tombac into Egypt was forbidden to private individuals, and constituted a State monopoly.

In his No. 18, Commercial, of the 8th May, 1887, he transmitted the text of a Concession to Khabil Kayat. Two Law Officers' Reports of 1883 are also annexed.*

October 22, 1902.

(Signed) NICHOLAS BALL.

No. 55.

Sir R. Rodd to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received October 22.)

(No. 66.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Rome, October 22, 1902.

RED Sea piracy: Following with reference to your Lordship's telegram No. 36 of the 20th October.

The guilty parties have been apprehended, some renegade Italians being among them.

The Ottoman Government claimed the right of punishing such as were Turkish subjects.

Italy assented to this, and the incident may, therefore, now be looked upon as closed.

No. 59.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir N. O'Connor.

(No. 313 A.)

Sir,

Foreign Office, October 22, 1902.

THE Turkish Chargé d'Affaires called to-day and stated that, although he had understood from Sir T. Sanderson that the Italian ships of war had left Hodeidah and

* Law Officers, May 29; ditto, December 15, 1883.

would not bombard the place, he had heard from the Turkish Government that the threat would be carried out. They therefore requested the assistance of His Majesty's Government to prevent this.

Hamid Bey was informed that I had heard nothing further of the intentions of Italy, but that the Porte could not count upon the interference of His Majesty's Government in the matter.

I am, &c.
(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

No. 60.

Foreign Office to Admiralty.

(Confidential.)

Sir,

Foreign Office, October 22, 1902.

I AM directed by the Marquess of Lansdowne to transmit to you, for the information of the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, the decypher of a telegram from His Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople,* requesting that instructions may be sent by telegraph, *en clair*, to the Commander of His Majesty's ship "Harrier" to remain at Hodeida for the present. These orders are desired in order to support Sir N. O'Connor in a question which has recently arisen with the Turkish Government in regard to the boundaries of the tribes in the neighbourhood of Aden who have Treaty engagements with His Majesty's Government.

A Joint Commission of British and Turkish officers has been appointed by the two Governments for the settlement of this question, but the Turkish Commissioners have taken the opportunity to occupy portions of the territory in dispute with Turkish troops and native levies, and have refused to proceed with the delimitation of the frontier.

Repeated promises have been made by the Turkish Government that instructions would be sent to the Commissioners to withdraw the troops and proceed with the delimitation, but the attitude of the Turkish officers has remained unchanged.

His Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople has recently been instructed to bring the matter to the personal notice of the Sultan, and to press for the fulfilment of the repeated promises which have been received from the Porte.

Lord Lansdowne has no doubt that the continued presence of His Majesty's ship "Harrier" will have a considerable influence on the decision of the Sultan, and his Lordship hopes that the Lords Commissioners will find themselves able to send instructions to the Commander of the "Harrier" as requested.

I am, &c.
(Signed) T. H. SANDERSON.

No. 61.

Sir E. Monson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received October 23.)

(No. 387. Confidential.)

My Lord,

Paris, October 22, 1902.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith copy of a letter from the Rev. Dr. Young, missionary, of Aden, together with its inclosure, a translation of a statement by Salem Kemri, a native of Zanzibar, regarding the circumstances under which he was brought to Paris by M. Piat, formerly French Consul at Zanzibar, for the purpose of doing certain political work for the French Government, and was subsequently confined in the St. Anne Lunatic Asylum.

A letter was received at this Embassy in August last from Salem Kemri, who was then in the St. Anne Asylum, telling briefly the story which is set forth at length in his present statement, without, however, going into particulars as to the nature of the work for which M. Piat required his services. I requested Mr. Atlee, at that time His Majesty's Acting Consul-General, to look into the matter. Mr. Atlee visited Salem Kemri in the asylum, and came to the conclusion that he was quite sane, and that his story was correct. He ascertained that no more serious grounds for the man's confinement were, in fact, alleged in the medical reports than "erotic mania," prostration, and depression, and he, with some

difficulty, induced the Director of the establishment to consent to hand him over to Dr. Young, who was then in Paris, and who accompanied him back to Aden, whence he has forwarded the statement which I now send your Lordship.

From inquiries which I have caused to be made at the Consulate-General as to the circumstances under which Mr. Atlee visited and succeeded in rescuing this unfortunate man, I have come to the conclusion that his story, romantic and unusual as it appears, is no invention or hallucination; and with the knowledge that His Majesty's Government possess of the unscrupulous character of many of the men employed by France on official service in the East, it is not difficult to believe that M. Piat's action, recklessly cruel as it undoubtedly was, has not been exaggerated in the description given by his victim. There is no obligation, of course, on any one who reads the statement to believe that M. Delcassé had any actual knowledge of what was going on, although secret service money was probably supplied from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for the execution of M. Piat's plan; nor would it be practicable, as it certainly would not be desirable, to connect that Ministry with the transaction. But I am, at the same time, quite ready to believe that some of the high officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs would not be indisposed to close their eyes to the commission of grave irregularities to the prejudice of British interests in the East.

However this may be I recommend Salem Kemri's statement to the perusal, not only of the Foreign Office, but to that of the India Office also.

I propose to instruct His Majesty's Consul-General to take all the steps in his power for the recovery of Salem Kemri's property, left behind in Paris, and to endeavour to find out what has become of his servant; and, in conclusion, I venture to state that Mr. Atlee's energetic and successful efforts to rescue the ill-treated Arab from indefinite incarceration in the lunatic asylum deserve an official expression of approval.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

Inclosure 1 in No. 61.

Rev. J. C. Young, D.D., to Sir E. Monson.

Sir,

Sheikh Ottoman, Aden, October 8, 1902.

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith a correct translation of the written statement handed to me by Salem Kemri, the man who was confined in St. Anne's Asylum, Paris, and to obtain whose release I travelled thither, as I felt sure that the man was quite *compos mentis*. With the help of Mr. George Atlee, Vice-Consul, I succeeded in having him released, and brought him back with me to Aden.

On leaving the asylum, the authorities said that they had none of his luggage or any money belonging to him in their possession, and, as M. Piat was out of town, we had to leave Paris without getting anything belonging to him. Might I, therefore, beg you to be so good as to see that his servant and goods are returned to him here?

He has, undoubtedly, suffered much for his loyalty to Christ and to the British Government, and I humbly pray you to see that his goods at least are restored, and that the servant whom he took with him to Paris is sent back to Aden.

In doing this act of kindness you will greatly assist the man and confer a favour upon yours, &c.,

(Signed) JOHN C. YOUNG.

Inclosure 2 in No. 61.

Statement of Salem Kemri.

(Translation.)

ONE day when I was living in Lahej I received a message from M. Reiss, the French Consul in Aden, telling me to call upon him, as he wished to see me. When I did call he told me that M. Piat, a gentleman whom I had formerly known as French Consul in Zanzibar, had sent him a letter asking him to find me, as he wished me to go to Paris, having found suitable work for me there. All that he wanted to know at that time was whether or not I was willing to go to Paris.

Upon my expressing my willingness he told me to call again in a month, as by that time he would have an answer from M. Piat, saying what was the nature of the work he wished me to do, and what salary would be attached to the post.

A month later I returned, and M. Reiss told me that the work was to teach a man Arabic for two hours every day, and that for the rest of the day I would be free to take other pupils. The wages were to be 300 fr. a-month, with a free lodging for myself and servant, together with a second class passage for myself per steam-ship "Yarra," leaving Aden on the 14th May, and a deck passage for my servant. I then accepted the place, and M. Reiss gave me 80 rupees to buy suitable clothes in Port Saïd.

On reaching Paris I found M. Piat waiting for me in the railway station, and he at once took me to his own house, giving me rooms on the top flat, and treating me as a visitor and friend; he made me eat at his own table.

Daily after that he conversed with me, but made no mention of work for more than a fortnight, although I several times asked when I was to see my pupil. In these conversations he always brought the talk round to the greatness of France, and the tyrannical way in which Britain exerted its sway in different parts of the world.

I told him that since I knew him I had become a Christian, and had letters from Dr. Young to Pastor Cordey and the Rev. E. Brechlin, Church of Scotland, Paris. When I said this he seemed disappointed, and told me that I was not to send these letters nor to speak with any European in Paris, nor to correspond with Dr. Young or any other European than those to whom he himself introduced me. He also said that as I neither knew the French language nor how to find my way about in Paris, I was not to go outside the house, except to the Trocadero, unless he, or some one to whom he would delegate the duty, should accompany me.

I wondered why I never saw my pupil, and as he (M. Piat) seemed to know Arabic quite as well as I did, I wondered why he had sent for me, and why he treated me as one of his own family, continually flattering me, as did also his wife. One day, however, he called me into his office and after laughing and joking with me he said that he was now going to show me the work he had brought me to Paris to do: remarking at the same time that if I did the work secretly and well, zealously discharging all the duties given me to do, he would increase my pay to 500 fr. a-month. My reply was that I was sincerely grateful to him for all his kindness to me, and that I would do the work that he gave me as best I could, never mentioning to any one. He then said: I did not tell M. Reiss, the Consul in Aden, that I wanted you for secret work, but for teaching, as I did not want people to know that I was engaged in secret correspondence, but now you will learn something of the work I want you to do; and he brought out a couple of books full of Arabic writing and said to me: There are two well-written books, but I want you to look over them and to correct any mistakes you may find therein. He also gave me two blank books, and told me that I was to write therein whatever he should dictate to me as well as all that he gave me to copy therein.

With that he gave me a paper and told me to copy it into the book and then to return it to him. I said, O Sir, is this the only work that I am to do? Yes, he replied, but you should consider yourself a lucky man, for your name is now well known to M. Delessé, and if you do your work well he will see that you get a decoration from the French Government. Therefore apply yourself diligently and act secretly. I replied that I would try to do so, but I would like to understand the nature of the work in which I was to be engaged. His answer to this request was that it would be unfolded as I went on and could be trusted, but that in copying the letters and reading through the two books that he had given me I would learn a great deal.

After a few days he told me we were to print a Gazette to send to those Arabic-speaking people whom we could trust for diffusing the information printed in the Gazette throughout India and all Mahomedan countries, and that the "copy" for this Gazette was to be largely taken out of the two books which he had given me.

On reading through these books I found that they were filled with letters and telegrams from different countries, and that many articles were therein that had been translated from French, German, Russian, and Dutch newspapers. There were, however, more telegrams than any other form of correspondence, and these principally came from India, Egypt, Aden, Syria, and Cabul, while the burden of most messages was a complaint against the wickedness and oppression of British rule and influence. There were, however, articles specially got up to show that God's anger against Britain was increasing, as not only had the Transvaal war been brought on to punish Britain for its arrogance, but cholera and plague were now rarely absent from those Mussulman countries in which she held sway, and, as a sure proof of God's anger, there was the King's illness and the postponement of the Coronation.

In trade, too, was God's punishment being manifested; for that which Britain depended upon most of all was coal, but the coal-markets were becoming empty of buyers,

as America had introduced the use of oil as fuel, and it was rapidly taking the place of coal.

All these things must be looked upon as a dispensation from God against the tyranny and oppression of British power. At any rate, one must conclude that the repeated risings in India and Somaliland were due to this cause. God wished to punish Britain and its King, as He had punished Pharaoh and the Egyptian hosts before, and for this purpose he had raised up one Mullah and the Somali tribes, as formerly he had raised up the holy prophet Moses and the children of Israel. The Mullah had now possession of large tracts of country over which formerly Britain held sway, and the merchants in Berbera, Bulkar, and Zeyla were all being ruined through his commanding the chief roads to these places and seizing all goods consigned to them. From Zeyla to Kismayu the Somalis were flocking to the Mullah's standard, determined to free their country from the infidel's yoke or gain a warrior's death and reward in the attempt.

In the North-West of India, too, the Mullah, Najeeb-ed-Deen, had raised the standard of revolt and the Ameer's tribes were following him, while the Ameer himself was secretly supporting him, while those people whom Britain had impoverished, and from whom Britain had taken away their means of livelihood, were flocking to his standard.

As could be seen in India, Egypt, and the Soudan, Britain was not above oppressing the meanest subject; but it was determined at every cost to get the whole world, if it could, subjected to its tyranny, and for this reason Mr. Arthur Hardinge, the British Consul at Tehran, was doing his best to gain a victory over Russia in Persia. In order to do this, however, he had used means which forced Russia to ask the British Government to recall him. Probably, however, Britain would refuse; but this would not help them much, as Russia is near to Persia and has many soldiers on its borders, although its love of that country and its own sense of fairness prevented their being used dishonestly.

In Abyssinia the British had used great influence to get the Emperor to permit them to lead water through his possessions into the Soudan, and the Emperor had given them leave, for he knew that if ever a dispute did occur between the two countries he could at once cut off their water supply and starve them out.

The British too had wished to take away Koweit from the Sultan and Moslem Khalifa, saying that this land belongs to Sheikh Mubarak, and has for a very long time been under British influence; although it was well known that Koweit was and really is a Turkish possession. The Sultan of Turkey has, therefore, been forced to send soldiers to an island in the Gulf of Koweit and to man the forts, &c., on the frontiers.

One day, while the Turks were building a fort, the Captain of a British man-of-war landed for a day's shooting, and, seeing the men at work, he asked what they were doing. They replied, building a fort, whereupon the Captain said: Do not build it here or the Bedouins will come and kill you. They replied they were acting according to orders. That night, however, the Bedouins came down, and, having slain the garrison, broke down the walls, &c., and of course they did so because they were bribed by the English Captain to do so.

Now, it would be far better if Sheikh Mubarak listened to the Sultan and gave no heed to the flattering words and false promises of the British Government, as it is composed of infidels, and listening to them is sinful, as soon they will insist on all Moslems becoming infidels too. The manner also in which the British Government has persecuted the Sultan of Muscat, and almost ruined him, ought to be a warning to all Moslems not to trust anything that any British Representative says.

One day some Turkish soldiers landed on an island which belongs to a lady of the Khedive's family, but at Lord Cromer's instigation the British sent a man-of-war to the place and told the Khedive that he must lay claim to the place, assuring him at the same time that Britain would help him if he did. The Khedive, who is looked upon by all true Moslems as an infidel himself, because of his ready compliance with Britain's demands, did as was requested, never stopping to think that whenever Britain gives help at all it is always with the ulterior object of grasping all, as the Transvaal, Egypt and the Soudan bears witness. Now, Moslems, we advise you to beware, and especially you inhabitants of Arabia do we ask to take notice how Britain grasps at and despoils every country she can flatter or cajole into asking her aid.

Both of the books were thus filled with accounts of British oppression. There was also something said against Germany. Nearly every page, however, praised France and Russia for their liberality, greatness, and kind treatment of their dependencies, while their alliance was emphasized and the fact of their being rich and having no need to

oppress any country was dwelt upon, as also was the fact that what they wanted to do was to trade and nothing else.

A Moslem's duty, the book said, was neither to be afraid of British threats nor to listen to their false promises. Should, however, they already have done so it was their duty to try and deliver themselves by opening a correspondence with France, Russia, or other great Power as probably one of these countries would make a Treaty with them, or at any rate give them the best possible advice as to how they should act to free themselves.

In one of these books too were copies of three letters said to have been sent to the Mullah in Somaliland, the Sheikh of Koweit, and the Mullah in North-West India.

The first was to Mullah Abdulla Asshun in Somaliland and purported to come from all Moslems dwelling in cities, and saying that they daily prayed for him, but that if he really wanted to injure Britain and break the infidel's power, he ought to send men to tear up the railway line between Mombasa and Uganda as this would injure Britain far more than anything he could do in the neighbourhood of Berbera.

The second letter was to Sheikh Mubarak, of Koweit, and purported to come from all the most-learned Moslem priests throughout the world. In it they said "you must fear God and not pay attention to the speech of infidels, for God in the holy Koran has said that if you follow them you will become unbelievers like them, and the holy prophet has said likewise, therefore we entreat you not to pay attention to Britain, but to give an attentive ear to the Sultan of Turkey, who is a Moslem like ourselves and will not lead you into sin like those infidels with whom you now associate."

The third letter was to Mullah Najeeb Eddeen Haddar, and purported to come from all Moslems throughout the world, strengthening and supporting him with promises of help, and saying: "Do not be afraid, Russia is your friend and the Ameer of Afghanistan is secretly with you, and if we see that you are true we shall assuredly help you. Therefore, continue to harass and fight with the British until you free your country. You know how India is ground down, how Egypt groans under the burden of unjust taxation, and how the Soudan is now made to feel the iron heel of despotism, while the whole of South and Eastern Arabia feels the oppressor's power."

When I was put into the asylum these letters had not been published in the "Gazette," although, they were, I believe, sent to the persons named.

The "Gazette" was printed two or three times a-month. Formerly its name was "Fateh-el-Bisaer," but it was afterwards changed to "Murshid Elbab." Among those to whom it was sent were Haj Aman, Sayid Saffer, and Sayid Eiderus, in Aden; Sheikh Abdulla Aziz, in Muscat; Sheikh Abdulla, Sheikh Abdul Aziz-el-Besam, Captain Mohammed Bakr, Sheikh Ibrahim Mesharee, in Bombay; the Wali, in Kutch; and to people in Kurrachee, Linga, Bunder Abbas, Bushire, Koweit, Bahrein, Bussorah, Mombasa, Lamu, Melinda, Morocco, &c.

When I saw the nature of the work I was very sorry, and felt a great deal, as I had become a Christian, and had also recognized myself as a loyal British subject; consequently, I said to M. Piat that I am not able to do this work. It would, therefore, be better for you to get another man, and send me back to Aden, saying that, if he did, I would pay my own fare and let no person know what was the nature of the work in which I was engaged. When I said this his face fell, but, taking hold of me, he said: "I love you, and do not want any other person in your place. I have spent 1,240 fr. in bringing you and your servant here, and I am responsible to M. Delcassé for you. He (M. Delcassé) did not know you, but I told him I could thoroughly recommend you as a most trustworthy, learned, and suitable man for the place. I have brought you here at a large salary and great expense, and what can I say to M. Delcassé if now you leave after being here less than a month? If you go away you will repent it, as you are now to receive 500 fr. a-month, and soon you will get a decoration from the Government; and if you stay three years you will be made a full subject of France, and will be able to return to your country, and all that you have lost there will be restored to you. You know how the British oppressed you, and made you a poor man, and if you leave this work who will help you?" I replied: "All that you say, Sir, is true; but I am not able to do this work, and, therefore, I beg you to allow me to return to Aden."

When I said this, he became very angry, and said I was a mule, an ass, an unreasonable fool, and therefore it would be necessary to chastise me and to send me to prison, where I would lie and rot unless I did the work. You are only an Arab, he said, a Bedouin, a Salook, and you must do as I bid you, or it will be worse for you. Will you kill me? I asked. No! he replied, but I will make you wish you were dead. When he said this, I became afraid, and ate no food for two days, lest my food should be poisoned. After two

days, he asked me why I did not eat, and I replied that I would do so in a hotel, but not in his house. When I said this, he replied you must eat, and he beat me. Whereupon I shrieked, and called out that people might hear me and save me, but no person came.

Next day he brought a doctor to me, who did not understand my language. M. Piat said, This is M. Delcassé's own doctor, and he has come to see if you are mad. The doctor then looked at my tongue and the back of my neck, and M. Piat told me that he said I was an epileptic, and that if I was not soon well, he must send me to a country for mad people. Upon this I felt pleased, because I thought he meant Arabia. He also said that I was to have a cold bath every morning.

After the doctor's visit, I sent the two letters that I had with me from the Rev. Dr. Young of Aden to Pastor Cordey and to the Rev. E. J. Brechin, and inclosed a letter asking Pastor Cordey to meet me in the Trocadero, as I was allowed to walk in it without any person being with me.

Pastor Cordey came, and I told him how M. Piat beat me, but I could not tell him anything about my work. I, however, begged him to take me away, or else M. Piat would kill me. He replied, I will go and consult with the Rev. E. J. Brechin first, and after two days you must go to the Post Office, and you will find a letter from me.

The Rev. E. J. Brechin and he made an engagement in this letter to meet me in the Trocadero, but they became vexed with me when I would not tell them what sort of work M. Piat made me do, although they promised to help me all they could.

A short time after this I wrote Pastor Cordey's address on a sheet of paper, and gave it to a cabman to drive me to the place. When I got there, I begged M. Cordey to give me shelter or to have me sent back to Aden, as I had enough money to pay my own fare. His only reply, however, was, You must go back to M. Piat; but do not be afraid, we shall see that you come to no harm.

I then went back and did the work M. Piat gave me to do, but daily begged M. Piat to get some other person for the work. He, however, only swore at me, and said, What could I say to M. Delcassé if you left? How could I account for the expense you have put me to? If you continue to act as you are doing you will be sent to some prison, from which you will never come out alive, and no person will ever see you or be allowed to communicate with you.

One day, however, he said, I am getting tired of your prayers. If you really want to get back to Aden you must feign to be out of your mind; and after consultation with my servant, I did feign madness, whereupon M. Delcassé's and another doctor came again to see me, and I was conveyed to St. Anne's Asylum and lodged there on the 17th July, where I was kept until the Rev. Dr. Young took me away on the 16th September.

As M. Piat was not in Paris when I left, I could not get either my money, clothes, books, boxes, or servant, and thereupon I would most humbly petition your Lordship to see that these things are restored to me by M. Piat.

(Signed in Arabic.)

Minute on Sir E. Monson's despatch No. 387, Confidential, of October 22, 1902.

We were aware that the French Foreign Office or persons in their employment were parties to the publication and dissemination of the "Fateh-el-Bisaer" or "Opener of the Eyes" (see annexed papers).

Foreign Office, November 5, 1902.

T. H. S.

Annexes to Sir T. Sanderson's Minute.

(A).

India Office to Foreign Office.

(Confidential.)

Dear Fairholme,

We brought to the notice of the Foreign Office the distribution of the Arabic "eye-opener," the Fateh-el-Basayyir, in Muscat and Aden. As you have learnt from our letters of the 20th June, 1900, and the 3rd July, 1900, the paper is very mischievous and abusive. Captain Cox sent me an empty envelope which had inclosed a copy, and Maxwell consulted Mr. Drummond-Hay, who sent the envelope to Beyrout, of which it

[1565]

R

bore the post-mark. The answer came that no such envelopes were made in Beyrout. (See Maxwell's note, 6th August).

I thereon quietly approached the maker of the envelope, without, of course, any reference to the matter under discussion. The maker tells me that the envelopes, of which I sent him a pattern, were specially made for the French Embassy, Albert Gate, and that they were thence sent to Paris for use there. The conclusion seems fair that the French Embassy is interested in the dissemination of these highly-coloured eye-openers.

You will, perhaps, let the result of this inquiry be known in the proper quarter.

Yours sincerely,
(Signed) W. LEE WARNER.

(B.)

Mr. J. Bolton, Stationer, to India Office.

39, St. George's Place, Knightsbridge,
August 18, 1900.

Sir,

In reply to your letter, the envelopes, as inclosed pattern, were specially made for the French Embassy, Albert Gate, Knightsbridge, but I know that they were not for their own use here. The messenger at Albert Gate tells me they were forwarded on to the Embassy at Paris. Beyond that I can give you no information.

Yours truly,
(Signed) J. BOLTON.

Minutes on India Office Letter of August 25, 1900, and Mr. Bolton's Letter of August 18, 1900.

Arabic Leaflet, "The Eye-Opener," distributed at Aden and Muscat.

This is a very odd story.

The paper is strongly anti-English. It is surmised that it may be produced by a certain Abu Nadareh, who once started a similar paper in Egypt, and, having been expelled from thence, went to Paris. The copies are posted from Beyrout, but it seems certain the paper is not printed there, and it has been ascertained that the envelopes in which the copies are sent were ordered in London by the French Embassy and sent over to Paris for use there.

It seems astonishing that so much expense and trouble should be incurred for the purpose merely of making mischief. But I should think the French Government had probably retained Abu Naderah or some such person for the purpose of counteracting English influence, and left him, M. Ottavi (then Consul at Muscat), a certain M. Goguyer, who is also intriguing out there, and some others to work the plan out at a certain expense.

We might, perhaps, make some investigations as to the paper on which the leaflets are printed, in order to ascertain whether it is produced in Paris, and also try to ascertain more as to its distribution. The copies for Muscat are now stopped at Bombay.

Foreign Office, August 27, 1900.

(Signed) T. H. SANDERSON.

With regard to the paper on which the "eye-opener" is printed, I have consulted Mr. Wightman, Examiner of Paper at the Stationery Office. He says the paper is certainly not of English or Oriental make, but is a common kind made on the Continent. It has no water-mark or other indication by which the place of manufacture could be established.

Mr. Drummond-Hay promised to let us know if he succeeded in finding out anything more about this newspaper on his return to Beyrout this month.

Foreign Office, September 12, 1900.

(Signed) G. F. FAIRHOLME.

No. 62.

Sir N. O'Connor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received October 23.)

(No. 108.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Constantinople, October 23, 1902.

MY telegram No. 104 of the 18th instant: Aden frontier.

I am convinced that, whatever turn events take, the assistance of Mr. Fitzmaurice will be very valuable to our Commissioners. May I press for early answer as to his appointment, as steamer leaves for Alexandria on Saturday.

No. 63.

Mr. Erskine to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received October 23.)

(No. 62.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Tehran, October 23, 1902.

MOHAMMERAH customs.

With reference to your Lordship's telegram No. 50 of the 10th instant, I spoke to the Acting Administrator-General of Customs last week who informed me that, having no men to send for the purpose, it was impossible to collect customs elsewhere than at Mohammerah.

He proposed to send orders to the authorities at that place to treat with leniency cargo already arrived and destined for Ahwaz and other river ports, accepting Messrs. Lynch's certificates in the majority of cases, and only causing a few to be examined. I replied that this did not seem to me to meet the case, and as a temporary measure, I suggested that the duties should be collected and forwarded to Mohammerah together with the certificates by Messrs. Lynch themselves, but this proposal was not accepted by M. Priem.

The Mushir-ed-Dowleh, whom I have since repeatedly pressed in the matter, admits that the Persian Government ought to have given previous notice of their intention to change the system, but pleads as his excuse that the Grand Vizier and M. Naus arranged the matter together, and that Sir A. Hardinge's acquiescence had already been obtained by the latter.

Yesterday, his Excellency informed me, that the instructions sent by the Grand Vizier in 1891, do not, in the opinion of the Persian Government, constitute a binding agreement. I replied that until a fresh arrangement was made with us we considered them as such.

The Grand Vizier arrives in a few days, and his Excellency asked me to let the matter rest until then.

No. 64.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir N. O'Connor.

(No. 121.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Foreign Office, October 23, 1902.

WITH reference to your Excellency's despatch No. 217 of the 10th May and the India Office letter of the 16th August on the subject of the murder of Bahreinese near Katif by Behaih tribesmen, the Government of India state that the account given by the Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs of the incident is altogether inaccurate. They suggest that the Sheikh of Bahrein should now be authorized to negotiate, through the Sheikh of Katr, with the Behaih tribe.

Independent negotiations by the Chief of Bahrein with the tribes on the mainland are, no doubt, open to objection, but unless such negotiations are permitted, or unless there appears to be some prospect of a settlement within a reasonable time through the Turkish Government, the Bahreinese may resort to retaliatory measures, to which there would be even stronger objections.

In these circumstances, Lord G. Hamilton is inclined to approve the suggestion of the Government of India.

I should wish to have your Excellency's opinion on the subject.

Sir N. O'Connor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received October 25.)

(No. 109.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Constantinople, October 24, 1902.

THE promised answer respecting the Aden frontier delimitation not having reached me up to last night, I insisted on being received by the Sultan; His Majesty reluctantly accorded me an audience this afternoon.

I began with a brief résumé of the negotiations which had resulted in the present situation, and after repeating the substance of my representations to the Porte, I explained to His Majesty the instructions which the authorities of the Yemen had, as I had been told by the Grand Vizier and the Minister for Foreign Affairs, received from the Ottoman Government.

I insisted that, pending the examination of title, the Ottoman troops should be withdrawn from the territory in dispute, and that the Commission should proceed with the delimitation of the frontier north-eastwards.

His Majesty replied that his position was a difficult one: on the one hand was his sacred duty not to give up territory to which he believed himself to be entitled; on the other was his anxiety to keep on good terms with England. His Majesty, therefore, appealed to the friendship and magnanimity of His Majesty's Government not to press him too hard.

I replied that to disregard the integrity of His Majesty's Empire, or to injure his prestige, was the last thing we wished, but that His Majesty's Government could not tolerate that territory which they believed to belong to Chieftains protected by them should be occupied by Turkish troops. Nothing more than I had stated was wanted by His Majesty's Government, and nothing less could be accepted.

Finally I stated that unless we could count upon the support of His Majesty in a friendly settlement of this question, a regrettable conflict would almost inevitably ensue.

After considerable discussion, during which the Sultan showed signs of impatience, His Majesty finally assured me that he was giving his serious attention to the question, that the Council of Ministers would take it into consideration on Sunday, and that an answer should be given to me on Monday. Under the circumstances, I felt obliged to be content, for the moment, with this assurance.

The fanatical element of the Palace are against compliance, the Grand Vizier and the Porte are in favour of it, and His Majesty is hesitating between the two.

No. 66.

Sir N. O'Connor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received October 25.)

(No. 110.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Constantinople, October 25, 1902.

YOUR Lordship's telegram No. 121 of the 23rd instant.

There is probably no better course, under the circumstances, than the one proposed by the Indian Government.

No. 67.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir N. O'Connor.

(No. 125.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Foreign Office, October 25, 1902.

ADEN delimitation.

With reference to your telegram No. 109, I entirely approve the language held by you to the Sultan.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir M. Gosselin.

(No. 92.)

Sir,

Foreign Office, October 25, 1902.

I TRANSMIT to you a copy of a letter from the India Office,* inclosing papers received from India with reference to the reported capture by the Portuguese authorities in Mozambique of a number of Arab slave dealers, and asking that a detailed narrative of the occurrence may be obtained from the Portuguese Government, giving full particulars as to the names, fathers' names, and tribes of the Arabs stated to have been killed and captured.

I request you to obtain from the Portuguese Government the information desired by Lord George Hamilton.

I am, &c.
(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

No. 69.

Sir N. O'Connor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received October 27.)

(No. 452.)

My Lord,

Therapia, October 19, 1902.

ON calling on the Minister for Foreign Affairs yesterday, on my return from Smyrna, Tewfik Pasha informed me that they were in trouble with the Italians at Hodeidah owing to some acts of piracy lately committed by Arabs of the Yemen in the Massowah waters. The Italians had now asked that an Imperial Commission should be sent to Midi to assist in the detection of the pirates, the recovery of the property looted, and the punishment of the guilty parties. To this demand the Turkish Government had agreed, and he hoped that the matter would be peacefully settled, particularly as the Minister of Marine had been instructed to send three or four Turkish gun-boats to patrol the waters where acts of piracy had been committed. His Excellency said he had heard that the British Consul at Hodeidah had applied to Aden for a British gun-boat, but that he was confident that if the boat were sent, it would be in no hostile intention towards the Ottoman Government. The Turkish Ambassador in Rome had, his Excellency added, been instructed to protest against the attack made upon Midi, a coast stronghold of the pirates, by the Italians, as contrary to the law of nations, and to state that the Ottoman Government were taking measures against the pirates and had just captured two sambooks on the representations made by His Majesty's Embassy.

Later in the day I got a message from the Sultan to say "that the Italians were taking the law into their own hands in the Red Sea, and were threatening to bombard Hodeidah and other coast towns. His Majesty was convinced that England would not view this 'unbecoming' action with favour, and expressed the firm hope that England would not make a question of the Aden frontier, of which a favourable solution would be given to-morrow."

Next morning the Italian Ambassador was good enough to inform me that several Turkish sambooks, with 500 men on board, had landed on an island called Dhalak, close to Massowah, and had attacked the villages, looting and carrying off everything they could lay hands on. The Italian Naval Commander had summoned the local authorities to arrest and punish the pirates and restore the stolen property, failing which, by the morning of the 18th, he threatened to bombard Hodeidah, Midi, and another town. The threat was a *brutum fulmen* but useful and justifiable under the circumstances, and probably the offenders would be caught and handed over for punishment.

I told the Italian Ambassador of the appeal made by the Sultan for the intercession of His Majesty's Government, and that I did not propose to return any answer to the message.

The French Ambassador, who called in the course of the day, said that a similar appeal had been made in Paris to his Government, to which he presumed no answer

had been given as M. Delcassé had simply informed him of the substance of the Porte's representation.

I extracted from the German Ambassador an admission that representations of the same kind had been made at Berlin.

I have, &c.
(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

No. 70.

Sir N. O'Conor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received October 27.)

(No. 460. Confidential.)

My Lord,

Constantinople, October 21, 1902.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith a copy of a despatch received from His Majesty's Consul at Bussorah, reporting an application from the Muntefik Arabs to be taken under British protection.

I have, &c.
(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

Inclosure in No. 70.

Consul Wratishlaw to Sir N. O'Conor.

Sir,

Bussorah, September 8, 1902.

I HAVE the honour to report that three days ago a British Indian Mahomedan called at this Consulate, and informed me that he had been deputed by a number of leading Sezir Muntefik Arabs to request me to procure for them British nationality or protection. They had, he said, been much disturbed by reports from Bagdad to the effect that the Russian Consul was issuing passports to native Shias of that district; hence his application. I replied that it was impossible for me to comply with their wish. Thereupon, he said that they had decided to apply to the Russian Consulate in case of my refusal, and I have subsequently learned that they did so apply, and were informed by the Acting Consul that he could give them no answer till the return of the Consul, who is absent at Bagdad.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. C. WRATISLAW.

No. 71.

Sir N. O'Conor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received October 27.)

(No. 463.)

My Lord,

Therapia, October 21, 1902.

ON my return from Smyrna, on the 18th instant, I immediately called on the Minister for Foreign Affairs and told him that I was instructed by your Lordship to ask for an audience of the Sultan in connection with the Aden Frontier Delimitation question.

I went over the well-worn ground of the formal and official promises given by the Porte at repeated intervals, of instructions sent to the local authorities to proceed with the frontier delimitation in a north-easterly direction from the Dthali Plateau towards the desert and to withdraw the Ottoman troops from the military posts in the disputed territory which had been occupied since the Ottoman Government had proposed a delimitation of the frontier between the Yemen and the nine Cantons twelve months ago. I said that, instead of these instructions being obeyed, I had news, as late as the 10th instant, that the Turkish military authorities were intriguing with the local Chiefs under the Emir of Dthali and undermining British authority and prestige towards the south-west of the Amiri country. Such proceedings could

not be tolerated. His Majesty's Government had shown extraordinary forbearance during the last six months, but as it was now clear that the Porte's instructions were not such as to enforce obedience, it only remained for me to explain the situation fully to the Sultan, in order that His Imperial Majesty should not be able to reproach me later with having failed to do so or to give him due warning that other and stronger measures would be taken to bring this question to a satisfactory solution.

I begged his Excellency to clearly understand that it was not a question of the integrity of the Ottoman territory, which His Majesty's Government was most anxious to respect in the future as they had done in the past, but that it concerned the independence of territory belonging to Chieftains under our protection and with whom we were in close relationship. If we were forced to interfere it would, therefore, be for the protection of our legitimate rights, and I trusted the Sultan would be made to understand this quite clearly.

I supported my language to the Foreign Minister by representations to the Palace, and I received a message from the Sultan the same evening that a favourable answer would be given to me next day, that is to say, on Sunday evening. On the Sunday I inquired of the Minister whether he had any message from the Sultan, and was informed that His Majesty would see him and the Grand Vizier on Monday evening as he had been prevented from doing so on Sunday, and that the matter would be discussed and, he hoped, settled.

I called this afternoon upon the Foreign Minister and the Grand Vizier. The former informed me that he had just returned from the Palace, and that the First Secretary had told him that His Majesty would see the Grand Vizier to-morrow morning, and that if I had patience till then he had no doubt the necessary orders would be sent to the local authorities of the Yemen district from the Sultan. The Grand Vizier, however, said that up to the moment I was speaking to him he had received no orders from the Palace, that he would not go there unless invited, as the Sultan would probably not see him, but that he would send in an urgent report to His Majesty this evening that the question was assuming a serious character, and that I had told him that if my demands were not complied with I would be obliged to report to my Government that I could do nothing further diplomatically and that His Majesty's Government must now take their own measures to protect their rights and interests in those parts.

I thought the Italian incident at Hodeidah and the presence of a British gun-boat there was a good opportunity for pressing the Sultan for a favourable answer with as much energy as I could, and if I may judge from the tone of the Grand Vizier and the Minister for Foreign Affairs and of a card from Costaki Pasha, who was at the Palace last night, congratulating me on the result, I am inclined to think that this phase of the negotiations, at all events, will be settled satisfactorily. It is possible, however, that the Sultan may refer the question to the Council of Ministers to-morrow so as to cover his own responsibility *vis-à-vis* to the fanatical Arab element at the Palace under the well-known Sheikh Aboul Huda who is, I am told, opposed to any concession.

I have ventured to suggest to your Lordship by telegraph that His Majesty's gun-boat "Harrier" should be retained at Hodeidah for a short time, as her presence there will probably be of material assistance if there is any fresh hitch in the negotiations.

I have, &c.
(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

No. 72.

Sir N. O'Conor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received October 27.)

(No. 464.)

My Lord,

Therapia, October 21, 1902.

IN his despatch No. 316, Confidential, of the 8th July last, Mr. de Bunsen had occasion to report to your Lordship on the increasing number of cases of piracy in the Red Sea. This state of affairs has been growing worse, and, His Majesty's Consul at Jeddah having recently reported to me by telegraph that the Turkish gun-boat had just succeeded in capturing two of the sambouks belonging to the son of the late Bin Gobeish, the most notorious of these pirates, I made urgent representations to the

Porte that these vessels ought to be burnt. As the Minister of the Interior hesitated to give categorical orders in the sense desired, I pointed out to him that if it is not done we should probably ourselves proceed to destroy them.

I learn from the Porte that a third sambouk has been captured.

I have, &c.
(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

No. 73.

Sir N. O'Connor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received October 27.)

(No. 469. Confidential.)

My Lord,

Therapia, October 21, 1902.

I HAVE ventured more than once to allude to the state of disorder and lawlessness which exists in the Yemen in connection with the negotiations regarding the Aden frontier, as it seemed to me that any serious conflict in those parts might possibly imperil the existing order of things, and produce a political convulsion, not only in the Yemen, but throughout Arabia. The authority of the Sultan is maintained by the few military stations scattered throughout the country. The reluctance with which Ottoman troops go to these regions is well known, and is certainly not surprising, considering that only about half of them are said to return alive, death often following illness from want of proper medical attendance.

The inclosed letter, which has been given to me privately, and which emanates from a fairly reliable source, gives a lamentable account of the general situation of the country, and I think I ought to lay it before your Lordship.

I have, &c.
(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

Inclosure in No. 73.

Memorandum by Mr. E. Weakley.

THE following is an extract from a private letter, just received from a reliable person at Salif, near Camaran, and which gives some interesting details regarding the state of affairs in the Yemen:—

"18th September, 1902. Affairs here in the Yemen are very queer. The Turks, with the exception of Taiz, Hodeidah, Sana'a, and Loheiah have practically lost possession of the country.

"Zedieh and Munira are in the hands of the Arabs, as also Canawos, the various Kaimakams and other officers of the Government having all fled. The 'Damgha' (octroi) has been abolished by the Arabs, and general chaos reigns.

"Sana'a is quite cut off, and letters only get through when carried by a strong military force, or occasionally by permission of the tribes. Many of the houses outside the walls of Hodeidah have been attacked by roving bands of brigands, and one may safely say that all roads are cut, and communication stopped by sea, because of pirates, the poor fishermen being now afraid to go out. The other night pirates made an attack on Mekrem, a village on the north shore of Camaran Island, and, notwithstanding that the Kaimakam at Loheiah had warned the Camaran authorities of a probable attack, the stationnaire 'Turk' refused to move or to land men.

"The people of Salif itself are so frightened that many of them sleep in their sambouks during the night. Attacks by armed parties of Arabs on the Public Debt works at Salif are of nightly occurrence. Although the Arabs seem to unite to a certain extent against the Turk, yet inter-tribal feuds continue with unabated force. No rain has fallen for nearly eighteen months, and famine reigns. Probably a good rainfall would quieten matters to a certain extent, but I am afraid that, unless the Turks display more energy, their reign here is practically finished.

"Nominally, there are 36,000 troops distributed throughout the provinces: supposing that the half are *hors de combat*, dead, or helpless from various causes, there would be 18,000 effectives, but for these there is neither food, transport, nor a sufficiency of ammunition. They are unable to move outside of the two or three towns still in their possession for fear of being cut up; they have lost heart, and are prepared to submit (and have not been paid for months). The son of Abn Huda is

supposed to be somewhere in the Yemen looking into matters, but no one seems to know what he is really doing. The Vali at Sana'a is impotent, and divested of all authority, and the Marshal is not allowed to move, as the authorities think they will be able to pacify the Arabs amicably. The day for that has passed; the Turk has to fight for his existence. Any one coming in now who could put an end to the confusion and insecurity which now exists would be welcomed with open arms."

Therapia, October 9, 1902.

No. 74.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received October 27.)

Sir,

India Office, October 23, 1902.

I AM directed by Lord George Hamilton to forward herewith, for Lord Lansdowne's early consideration, a copy of a telegram from the Governor-General, proposing that, in the circumstances therein stated, a small detachment of troops should for the present be stationed at Ras-al-Arah, a place situated within the territory of the Atiffi tribe, a sub-section of the Subaihi tribe, which is one of the nine tribes under the protection of the British Government.

It will be within Lord Lansdowne's recollection that the Turkish Ambassador having, in his note of the 9th January, 1900, taken exception to a statement in his Lordship's note of the 2nd August, 1899, that Ras-al-Arah is in the territory of a Chief who is under the protection of His Majesty, the reply addressed to the Turkish Chargé d'Affaires on the 31st August, 1900, reiterated the declaration which had frequently been made to the Porte on previous occasions, that His Majesty's Government could not recognize the sovereignty of the Sultan over the tribes near Aden, whose Chiefs were British stipendiaries, nor could any interference with them be permitted.

In these circumstances, Lord George Hamilton sees no objection to the proposal of the Viceroy to station a detachment of troops for the present at Ras-al-Arah. With regard to the further proposal to prevent the establishment of Turkish posts east of Ras Turba, the western limit of the British Protectorate in this quarter is believed to be at Ras Turba, but the actual boundary is one of the questions which the Boundary Commission have to decide. Lord George Hamilton considers that it is very desirable to prevent Turkish advances such as have taken place in the Amiri country, with a view to present to the Commission a case of actual Turkish occupation.

His Lordship will be glad to be favoured with Lord Lansdowne's views on the proposal of the Viceroy at the earliest possible date, in order that instructions may be issued to the Government of India without delay.

I am, &c.
(Signed) A. GODLEY.

Inclosure in No. 74.

Government of India to Lord G. Hamilton.

(Telegraphic.) P.

October 16, 1902.

RESIDENT at Aden telegraphed the 10th October as follows:—
"Repeated rumours indicate intention of Turks to occupy Ras-al-Arah. Something of the kind may be attempted judging from their behaviour at Dthali. I propose that the place should be occupied by small detachment, and suggest that Senior Naval Officer might be instructed, if possible, to prevent the Turks establishing themselves anywhere east of Thurba."

The Government of Bombay, through whom this telegram was received, are of opinion that, before action is taken, further inquiries should be made for confirmation of these reports. There appears to me to be no object in delay, and, subject to your approval, I propose to act on lines indicated in above telegram. If rumours proved

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to be unfounded, the movement could, if necessary, be explained as action taken to check the arms traffic, and detachment could be withdrawn. Reference to letters from Foreign Office to Hamid Bey of the 2nd August, 1899, and the 31st August, 1900 (forwarded to India on the 11th August, 1899, and the 5th October, 1900) will show that there is no doubt that Ras-al-Arah is included in our Protectorate.

No. 75.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received October 27.)

Sir,

India Office, October 23, 1902.

WITH reference to the Secret despatch to the Government of India of the 26th July, 1901, forwarded to the Foreign Office on the 27th idem, I am directed by Lord George Hamilton to inclose, for Lord Lansdowne's information, a copy of a letter from the Government of India, forwarding copies of correspondence showing the progress that has been made in the matter of inducing the Sultan of Muscat to establish a suitable Customs administration at Sur.

I am, &c.
(Signed) A. GODLEY.

Inclosure 1 in No. 75.

Government of India to Lord G. Hamilton.

My Lord,

Simla, October 2, 1902.

IN your Lordship's Secret despatch, dated the 26th July, 1901, you intimated that you would be glad to learn in fuller detail what practical means our Political Agent at Muscat would suggest for giving effect to his proposals as to the establishment by the Sultan of a proper Customs administration at Sur, on the coast of Oman.

2. Before your Lordship's despatch was received, we had already invited Captain (now Major) Cox to consider certain measures by which it might be possible so to improve and strengthen the Sultan's administration at Sur as to give to his subjects no opportunity of disregarding his orders and intriguing with foreign Powers. These measures were (a) the entertainment by His Highness of a force of trained Sepoys at Sur; (b) that His Highness should proceed to Sur at regular intervals and reside there for awhile; (c) that His Highness should purchase a second-hand steam yacht, armed with one or two guns on the deck, in which to proceed up and down the coast.

Captain Cox was at the same time authorized, if he considered it desirable, to hint again to His Highness that the loan of a British or British Indian official for the purpose of administering his Customs, while it would undoubtedly result in an increase to his revenue, should also tend to strengthen his control over his subjects, and would be an additional proof of his friendship towards the British Government.

3. We now have the honour to forward copies of the papers noted in the inclosed list, from which your Lordship will learn the progress that has been made in this matter. His Highness the Sultan, although he was not prepared to accept our suggestion for the entertainment of a trained force of British Indian Sepoys, has taken steps to strengthen his garrison at Sur. He has also built a line of blockhouses commanding the caravan routes to and from the interior, and arrangements have been made for the regular supply of information by the Bombay Customs Department, which will enable His Highness to keep a check on the import trade. It has not, however, proved possible to induce the Sultan to place a British official in charge of his Customs, since His Highness considers that such an arrangement might lead to a coalition of his subjects against him.

4. Your Lordship is aware from recent telegraphic correspondence that the provision of a steam yacht for the Sultan has now been definitely arranged, and that we have undertaken to grant a loan to His Highness of 1,50,000 rupees for the purchase of the vessel, which will, we hope, be dispatched shortly from England. In the special circumstances we have decided not to charge interest on the loan, which will be recovered by monthly instalments of 3,000 rupees from the Sultan's subsidy of 7,200 rupees a-month. We trust

that, when His Highness is provided with the means of paying regular visits to the outlying portions of his territory, the difficulties which he has hitherto experienced in establishing a proper Customs administration at Sur will be reduced.

We have, &c.
(Signed)

CURZON.
A. P. PALMER.
T. RALEIGH.
E. R. ELLES.
A. T. ARUNDEL.
DENZIL IBBETSON.
E. F. G. LAW.

Inclosure 2 in No. 75.

Lieutenant-Colonel Kemball to Government of India.

Bushire, August 10, 1901.

I HAVE the honour to invite a reference to my letter, dated the 27th June last, in which, while commenting on the loyalty shown by the Sultan of Muscat towards Captain Cox on the occasion of his visit to the neighbourhood of Sur, I said that it might be possible for the Government of India to afford His Highness some degree of support towards improving his position at Sur.

I have now the honour to forward copy of a letter, dated the 31st July, from the Political Agent, Muscat, in which he reports the intention, or rather the desire, of His Highness the Sultan to provide himself with a small steamer. I do not know if the Government of India could see their way to give the Sultan some such assistance as that suggested by Captain Cox in the concluding paragraph of his letter, but there is no doubt that the acquisition by His Highness of a small steamer would very materially strengthen his position, not only as regards Sur, but elsewhere throughout his territories, and I trust that the Government may be able, as a mark of their appreciation of His Highness' improved attitude, and more specially of the ready support recently afforded by him to Captain Cox, to assist him to obtain what he wants.

Inclosure 3 in No. 75.

Captain Cox to Lieutenant-Colonel Kemball.

Muscat, July 31, 1901.

AS you will have gathered from the inclosures to my letter, dated the 3rd April, on the subject of the levy of customs duty on the outlying ports of Oman, the Sultan informed me some months ago that he intended to provide himself with a small steamer.

2. Since then he has sent or shown me plans and photographs of two or three vessels offered to him for sale, and has asked my opinion about them.

I am not an expert in such matters, however, and references to the Commanders of our men-of-war when such have happened to be present have not resulted in my being able to recommend His Highness to purchase any of the steamers offered to him, and, meanwhile, time is slipping by. I think it will be well, therefore, if I make an official reference in this connection, in case the Government of India, should you see fit to communicate with them on the subject, may feel able to accord Seyyid Feisal any form of assistance in the matter.

3. When His Highness first mentioned to me his intention of purchasing a steamer, 40,000 rupees was the amount which he said he was prepared to devote for the purpose. Subsequently he observed that, if necessary, he was willing to make it 60,000 rupees. I asked him at the time if he had seriously considered the heavy cost of maintaining such a vessel as he contemplated buying, in efficient condition, and he answered me that he fully intended to have it properly looked after, and believed that he would be in a great measure compensated for the expense thereof by the increase in his revenue which would result from consequent closer supervision over the collection of customs duty at his outlying ports. I took a recent opportunity afforded by the production for my inspection of some fresh photographs and plans to remind His Highness of this question of

up-keep, and he then reiterated the assurance that he intended to make proper provision therefor.

4. The principal uses to which such a vessel would be put would be as follows:—

(a.) Cruising up and down the Oman coast, and conveying Customs officials to various ports to examine the arrangements in force for the levy of duty.

(b.) Transporting the Sultan (or his Deputies) and escort to convenient points on the coast when any of the small expeditions which are of frequent occurrence in Oman, whether with the object of restoring order or punishing offending subjects are in contemplation.

(c.) Steaming to Kurrachee or Bombay in fair weather to be docked or to fetch stores.

The main qualifications which it would seem to be desirable for the vessel to possess would be—

(i.) Plenty of upper-deck accommodation: forward for about 100 Sepoys to congregate, and aft for the Sultan and his personal suite.

(ii.) One or two cabins for retiring purposes would be necessary, but otherwise much cabin accommodation for passengers is not required, as long voyages would not be made with the Sultan on board, and the climate on the Oman coast is such that the upper-deck is usually the most comfortable place.

(iii.) It would be an advantage for the vessel to have a somewhat capacious hold, so that in the fair season, when not in use for administrative purposes, she could take cargo to and from Kurrachee instead of lying idle in Muscat Harbour.

(iv.) Some sort of light armament would be necessary, and my opinion is that one gun of the machine-gun type and one breech-loading field-piece able to throw a shell on emergency would suffice.

In this connection, it is perhaps advisable that I should remind you of the correspondence between my predecessor and Colonel Meade, ending with Residency letter, dated the 7th March, 1898, in which the latter expressed his inability to take any action in the matter of the Sultan's desire to possess a machine-gun.

No reply to his communication was given to the Sultan, and neither he nor his Vazier has ever referred to the matter since.

His Highness' general attitude at that period was undoubtedly not such as to prompt the British Government to go out of their way to dispense favours to him, but, referring to the Sultan's original communication to my predecessor, I do not think it need necessarily be regarded as an unblushing request for the supply of guns gratis, and there is no doubt that the reasons given by Seyyid Feisal for making the request were *bona fide* and still exist.

There may perhaps be considered to be less objection now to his obtaining the small armament for his vessel above recommended, but, be that as it may, I beg respectfully to express the opinion that in this and cognate questions it is very much to be preferred that His Highness should communicate frankly with the Political Agent in regard to what he considers are his wants, and have the benefit of the views and advice of Government agents, than that (as is otherwise inevitable) he should be allowed to fall into the hands of unscrupulous persons, who, in order to benefit by the heavy commission, are always ready to supply his wants. In this connection I may mention incidentally that comparatively recently Messrs. Kornatzki and Goguyer endeavoured to obtain from the Sultan an order for a Creusot gun, the name of which came prominently to notice during the early days of the Transvaal campaign.

5. My opinion is that the possession of such a craft as that suggested would be an important acquisition to the Sultan, and strengthen his position in regard to his subjects at Sur and elsewhere very considerably, besides increasing his revenue. It is possible that the Government of India or His Majesty's Government may have some sound but obsolete vessel of 300 or 400 tons which would answer Seyyid Feisal's purpose, and which, in consideration of his improved attitude, they could lend him or let him have on easy terms. Failing that, they might perhaps help him with expert advice either with regard to likely vessels now in the market or the building of a new one.

I beg to commend the subject for favourable consideration.

Inclosure 4 in No. 75.

Captain Cox to Government of India.

Muscat, August 31, 1901.

AT the request of the Sultan, I have the honour to inquire whether the Government of India can see their way, by arrangement with the Government of Bombay, to favour His Highness by permitting the Customs authorities at that port to forward to him monthly or quarterly, through this Office, lists of dhows clearing for Oman ports with details of their cargo.

The information which such a course would put in his hands would be of the utmost value to the Sultan, as it would furnish his Customs officials at out-lying ports with a useful check on the statements of importers who frequently, after smuggling goods on shore, wholly or partially evade the payment of duty by giving false details of the cargo landed.

2. If Government desire that Seyyid Feisal should bear any extra departmental expenditure which compliance with his request would entail, I have no doubt His Highness will be glad to do so in any manner that may be considered advisable.

3. A return in the form attached would seem to be a convenient method of furnishing the information.

A copy of this letter will be forwarded to the Resident in the Persian Gulf by the up-mail.

MONTHLY Return of Sailing of Native Craft—Oman Ports.

Name of Dhow.	Name of Nakhoda.	Name of Owner.	Flag.	Destination.	Details of Cargo.
Fateh-el-Kheir ..	Ali Muhammad ..	Muhammad Mubarek ..	Arab ..	Sur ..	3,000 bags rice. 50 bags coffee.

Inclosure 5 in No. 75.

Government of India to Government of Bombay.

Simla, September 12, 1901.

I AM directed to forward a copy of a letter from the Political Agent at Muscat, in which he communicates the desire of the Sultan of Muscat to be furnished with monthly or quarterly lists of dhows, with details of their cargo, clearing for Oman ports.

2. The Government of India would be glad if His Highness' wishes could be met. If the Governor in Council sees no objection, the lists should be sent direct to the Political Agent for transmission to the Sultan. Captain Cox has intimated that it would be convenient if the information required could be furnished retrospectively from the 1st January, 1900.

Inclosure 6 in No. 75.

Lieutenant-Colonel Remball to Government of India.

(Confidential.)

Bushire, December 12, 1901

I HAVE the honour to invite a reference to the letter, dated the 11th September, 1901, from the Political Agent, Muscat, on the subject of improving the Customs administration of His Highness the Sultan of Muscat at Sur.

2. Whatever view may be taken of the right of such Suri subjects of His Highness, as have become possessed of articles or "titres de navigation" which entitle them to fly the French flags on their dhows on the high seas, to fly the same flag within the territorial waters and the territory of Muscat, no exception can be taken to the

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Sultan's right to enforce his own municipal regulations against these persons within his own territory.

3. With regard to the various measures suggested with the object of consolidating and strengthening the Sultan's authority, Captain Cox attaches the chief importance to the acquisition of an armed yacht by His Highness. I am inclined to agree with Captain Cox in this view, and in my letter, dated the 10th August, I reported the desire expressed by the Sultan to provide himself with a small steamer. The Sultan himself recognizes the importance of having a skilled engineer to take charge of the steamer, and the rest of the personnel of the steamer may, I think, be left to His Highness' discretion.

I have not been able to trace any official correspondence on the subject of the lease of Dhofar alluded to by the Political Agent; but I hardly think that this matter admits of practical consideration at present.

4. With regard to the question of the entertainment of a force of trained Sepoys, Captain Cox reports that such a measure does not commend itself to the Sultan. I understand, however, that His Highness has already taken steps to increase his forces at Sur. The other points alluded to in the Political Agent's letter do not, I think, require any comment by me. The question of the wall to inclose Sur on the land side has, I understand, been taken up by the Sultan during his recent visit to Sur, and I hope soon to hear what progress has been made.

Inclosure 7 in No. 75.

Government of India to Lieutenant-Colonel Kemball.

Sir,

I AM directed to refer to the correspondence ending with your letter, dated the 12th December, 1901, regarding the desire of His Highness the Sultan of Muscat to purchase a small steamer.

2. The Government of India have decided to grant a loan to His Highness of 1,50,000 rupees for the purchase of a steamer which has been selected for him in England, and which the Secretary of State has been requested to send out to Bombay. The loan will be recoverable from the Muscat subsidy by monthly instalments of 3,000 rupees as proposed by the Sultan. No interest will be charged.

3. It is hoped that when the Sultan is provided with the means of paying regular visits to the outlying portions of his territory, the difficulties which he has hitherto experienced in establishing a proper Customs administration at Sur will be reduced.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. B. WOOD,
Under-Secretary to the Government of India.

Inclosure 8 in No. 75.

Captain Cox to Government of India.

(Telegraphic.)

SULTAN is prepared to purchase the steamer; but, as he finds it difficult to put down 60,000 rupees cash just now, he would be grateful if the whole price, namely, 10,000 l. or thereabouts, could be paid to him by Government, and recovered by deduction of 3,000 rupees per month from his subsidy. I trust it will be possible to accommodate him.

No. 76.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received October 27.)

Sir,

I AM directed by Lord George Hamilton to acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 20th instant, stating that Lord Lansdowne proposes to approve the selection of Mr. Fitzmaurice, 3rd Dragoman at His Majesty's Embassy at Constantinople, to be an additional member of the Aden Delimitation Commission.

In reply, I am to say that Lord George Hamilton concurs in Lord Lansdowne's proposal, and has instructed the Government of India to inform the Resident at Aden of Mr. Fitzmaurice's appointment.

I am, &c.
(Signed) A. GODLEY.

No. 77.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received October 28.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Lord George Hamilton, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of letters from the Resident, Aden, dated the 27th September and the 3rd October, and inclosures, relative to the Aden Delimitation Commission.

India Office, October 27, 1902.

Inclosure 1 in No. 77.

Political Resident, Aden, to India Office.

Confidential.)

COPY of Colonel Wahab's Secret letter, dated Camp Dthala, the 25th September last, forwarded, with compliments, to the Secretary, Political and Secret Department, India Office, London. It covers the political diary of the Commission from the 17th to the 24th September last inclusive.

(For Political Resident, Aden),
(Signed) R. S. POTTINGER, Captain.

Note.—Copies of the diary have been forwarded to the Government of India, Foreign Department, and the Government of Bombay.

Inclosure 2 in No. 77.

Diary.

(September 17 to September 24, inclusive.)

September 19.—Interviewed Saleh Muthanna and Abdallah Muthana, Shairi Sheikh of Lakamat-al-Hajfar, one of the four Shairi villages now occupied by the Turks. They came in with Sheikh Said Ismail Thuer of Aul Sabula to make friendly advances. They declare that they adhere to their allegiance to the Amir of Dthala, and that all the people of Al Wabli are with them; that they are at enmity with Muhammad Muthanna, the Turkish nominee, and that the latter is in great disfavour with all the Shairi, and goes in constant fear of his life. Saleh, Abdallah, and Muhammad are all sons of Muthanna Muhammad, who was the Chief ally of Muhammad Musa'ad, the Turkish nominee to the Amirship of Dthala in 1873.

Lieutenant Roberts, with fifty rank and file, 1st Bombay Grenadiers, bringing the new rifles for the escort, arrived at 9 P.M.

September 20.—Lieutenant Tandy rejoined.

September 21.—Major Tod and Lieutenant Roberts rode over to the Turkish camp taking some music, which has been obtained for the use of the military band now at Jalela.

September 23.—Lieutenant Roberts and party started back to Aden on completion of the rearmament of the escort. A small party from here accompanies Lieutenant Roberts as far as Al Mokalla to report upon the route, and to return via the Mashwara Pass.

Interviewed Seif-bin-Manassar, Ali-bin-Ahmad, and Saleh-bin-Ahmad, relatives of the Sultan of Upper Yafa, who are returning to their country after a three months' visit to Lahej and Aden.

September 24.—Received a letter from Sultan Kahtar-bin-Umar, the titular Chief of the Upper Yafa, by the hand of his nephew Muhammad-bin-Ali. He expresses his desire to visit us here with a view to the conclusion of a Treaty. Sent a reply to the effect that General Maitland returns very shortly to Aden, and that he should address him direct regarding the Treaty.

I would again urge the desirability of this matter of a Treaty with the Upper Yafa being settled while their Chiefs continue to evince a wish for it. Further delay is likely to be seriously misunderstood.

Interviewed Muhammad Mohsin Askar and Ali Saleh-al-Hurebi, of the Upper Yafa, who are on their way to Aden, and brought a letter from Ali Mohsin Askar, Chief Sheikh of the Mawasatta clan of the Upper Yafa, to the Clerk of the Commission inquiring about affairs here.

Interviewed two traders of Rada who corroborate the report received lately from Aden that a Turkish convoy with a quantity of treasure was captured recently near Menaka on the high road from Hodeida to Sana by the Imam's Lieutenant, Al Mukdad.

They also report that the emissaries from Constantinople to the Imam have failed to come to an understanding with him.

(Secret.)

Camp Dthala, September 25, 1902.

Forwarded to the Resident, at Aden, for information.

(Signed) R. A. WAHAB, Colonel,
Commissioner, Aden Boundary Commission.

Inclosure 3 in No. 77.

Political Resident, Aden, to Government of Bombay.

(Confidential.)

Aden Residency, October 3, 1902.

FORWARDED with compliments to the Secretary to Government, Political Department, Bombay, in continuation of my Confidential letter dated the 27th September last.

2. Umerah may perhaps be the Amur, inhabiting the Amri district. They are regarded as part of the Haushabi tribe. The Zaida inhabit a small tract of the same name which was formerly Haushabi, but is now included in the territory of the Sultan of Lahej. They are of little importance. Zaidi is the name of a widely spread religious sect, the followers of the Imam. None of these people are distinct tribes.

(Signed) P. J. MAITLAND,
Brigadier-General.

Inclosure 4 in No. 77.

Political Resident, Aden, to India Office.

(Confidential.)

Aden Residency, October 3, 1902.

COPY forwarded with compliments to the Secretary, Political and Secret Department, India Office, in continuation of this Office Confidential letter of the 27th September last.

(For Political Resident, Aden),
(Signed) R. S. POTTINGER, Captain.

Note.—Copies have been forwarded to the Government of India, Foreign Department.

Inclosure 5 in No. 77.

Diary.

(From September 25 to September 29, inclusive.)

September 25.—Ration convoy arrived. Sappers and miners rejoined from work on the Thaiba Pass.

Interviewed Alawi Rajah of Wadi Yahar,* who brought a letter from Sheikh Alawi-abd-al-Hak, of the Ahl Wadi Yahar, proposing to visit the Commission with a view to entering into friendly relations, replied recommending him to address the Resident at Aden through the Sultan of the Lower Yafa.

September 26.—The recent rearmament of our escort is reported to have given rise to most exaggerated reports among the Turks and Arabs of reinforcements of our strength with hostile intent.

A number of the people of Haud, a village at the foot of Jabal Jihaf, over which the Turks have for years past extended their influence, though only a mile distant from Dthala, came to near our camp, and sent a message that they were sick of Seyid Muhammad Tahir and the Turks, and wanted to enter into friendly relations with the British; further, that they were prepared to forcibly eject Seyid Muhammad Tahir, or any one who came to them from the Turks, if only we would give the order. Sent a reply that if they wished to evince their friendship for us they could do so by readily furnishing supplies, and by ceasing to be insolent to the members of our camp who might approach their village.

September 27.—Ration convoy started for Aden.

September 28.—The party which accompanied Lieutenant Roberts, in order to reconnoitre the Al Mokalla route, rejoined via the Mashwara route.

Received Secretary of State's telegram of the 20th September, to the effect that the Porte had ordered the evacuation of posts occupied by Turkish troops subsequently to the commencement of negotiations, recognition of the Yafa as one of the nine tribes, and delimitation northwards towards the desert.

September 29.—Went to Jalela and had an interview with the Turkish Commissioners. Explained to them the purport of the telegram received yesterday, and made it clear to them what is intended is the withdrawal of their forces from the places occupied since the commencement of negotiations between the Governments, with the view evidently of anticipating by armed occupation a settlement of the question by fair and friendly discussion on its own merits. They said they had received no orders of any description, but promised to inquire at once from the Yemen authorities if any had arrived. Asked them to furnish me with list of the nine tribes as given in their orders. They give it as follows:—

Dthali.	Zaida.
Haushabi.	Abyan, or Fadthli.
Subaili.	Bir Ahmad (Akrabi).
Lahej.	Alawi.
Umerah.	

The Umerah and the Zaida cannot be identified with any known tribes, but they are probably intended to designate sections of the Haushabi and Abdali. The omission of the Yafa and the Aulaki is evidently with a view to limiting the British Protectorate on the east to the Fadthli territory, and to exclude British influence from the whole country between the desert and Hadramaut.

(Secret.)

Camp Dthala, September 29, 1902.

Forwarded to the Resident at Aden for information.

(Signed) R. A. WAHAB, Colonel,
Commissioner, Aden Boundary Commission.

Sir N. O'Connor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received October 28.)

(No. 111.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Constantinople, October 27, 1902.

MY telegram No. 109.

I learnt, confidentially, from the Grand Vizier that the report of the Council of Ministers on the Aden frontier question was to the effect that, as in 1873, before His Majesty came to the Throne, the nine Cantons had been recognized by the Ottoman Government as under British protection, and that, as an Imperial *Traté* had recently authorized the Government to propose the delimitation of the frontier between the Yemen and the Cantons, it was advisable to proceed in accordance with these decisions.

The Minister for Foreign Affairs, who had come straight from the Palace, stated that the Sultan had just given him orders to inform me that it was the desire of His Majesty that the delimitation should be proceeded with, and that the *status quo ante* should be maintained.

Tewfik Pasha could not explain what was meant by this expression, but he presumed that it implied that when it was proved that occupation had taken place recently, or subsequently to the proposal for delimitation, the troops would be withdrawn.

I replied that His Majesty's Government would not be satisfied with this vague and equivocal answer. On Friday I had made two precise demands, viz., the withdrawal, pending inquiries as to ownership, of Turkish troops from the four places mentioned in the territory in dispute; and the delimitation of the frontier north-east to the desert. What I now wanted to know was whether these demands were met by His Imperial Majesty, and orders sent to the local authorities accordingly.

I said I would call to-morrow for my answer at the Porte, and the Minister returned at once to the Palace to report my remarks to the Sultan.

Sir N. O'Connor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received October 28.)

(No. 112.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Constantinople, October 28, 1902.

MY telegram No. 111 of 27th October.

Minister for Foreign Affairs received the Sultan's orders to-day to inform me that His Imperial Majesty agrees to the demands of His Majesty's Government relative to the Aden frontier; that another report will be presented by the Council of Ministers to the Palace to-morrow, and that on Wednesday night or Thursday morning an Imperial order to proceed with the delimitation as desired, and to evacuate the four places mentioned, will be sent to the Yemen authorities. This decision to be communicated to me officially on Thursday.

I said I would like to have the Sultan's consent in writing, as during these negotiations there had been so many promises unfulfilled. Tewfik Pasha replied that he thought this request would be complied with without any difficulty, but that, as he and the Grand Vizier had just been together to the Palace, he was certain that the decision was such as we desired, and would not be changed.

The Sultan's wish to cover his responsibility by a Ministerial report is evidently the reason for the two days' delay.

I venture to ask that if, as I anticipate, all is satisfactorily arranged on Thursday, His Majesty's ship "Harrier" may be immediately withdrawn from Hodeidah, where her presence has been of considerable use to me.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir N. O'Connor.

(No. 126.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Foreign Office, October 28, 1902.

I REPEAT to you a telegram from Resident at Aden of the 10th instant respecting the rumoured intention of the Turks to occupy Ras-el-Arah.

Do you see any objection to authorizing measures proposed by Resident?

If necessary, the movement could be explained as having been made with a view to checking arms traffic, and, whenever desirable, the detachment could be withdrawn.

Ras Turba is considered by us to be the western limit of the British Protectorate, and we have on a previous occasion (see Inclosure to my despatch No. 181 of 4th September, 1900) claimed that Ras-el-Arah lies within it.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir N. O'Connor.

(No. 127.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Foreign Office, October 28, 1902.

AT an interview to-day the Turkish Chargé d'Affaires complained that, although the Italian Government have received the satisfaction which they had required, they have addressed a Circular to Powers, in which they justify the action they have taken in Red Sea, and have not yet given Naval Commander authority to withdraw his ultimatum.

Hamid Bey has been informed that, in view of the treatment we have received in the Aden frontier question, I cannot be surprised at this action which the Italian Government have taken, and that we may find it necessary to adopt a similar course unless we are informed promptly that the Turkish Government will comply with our very reasonable demands.

Sir N. O'Connor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received October 29.)

(No. 160. Commercial.)

My Lord,

Therapia, October 24, 1902.

WITH reference to Lord Cromer's telegram, repeated to me in your Lordship's telegram No. 32, Commercial, of the 22nd instant, pointing out that the date of the Treaty of Erzeroum, as given by Aristarchi in the "Législation Ottomane," is not the same as that given in Hertslot's Treaties, I have the honour to state that, by inquiries made at the Sublime Porte, I ascertain that the Treaty was signed on the 20th May (N. S.), 1847 (16th Jemazi-ul-Akhir, 1263, A.H.), and ratified on the 24th June (N. S.), 1847 (11th Redjeb, 1263, A.H.).

I have, &c.

(Signed) N. R. O'CONNOR.

Minute by Mr. Oakes.

I THINK it is evident that the 20th May (N. S.) is given in Sir N. O'Connor's despatch in error, and that the 20th May (O. S.) was intended to be given as the date of the signature of the second Treaty of Erzeroum. Count de Salis has very kindly made a calculation from the almanacks, from which it results that the 20th May (O. S.), or the 1st June (N. S.), 1847, coincides with 16th Jemazi-ul-Akhir, 1263.

The Mohammedan date, as given by Sir E. Hertslot, is the same as in Sir N. O'Connor's despatch, and the date 19th (31st May), as given by him, is within one day of the correct date as calculated by Count de Salis, that is, the 20th May (O. S.). This error may very likely have arisen in counting the days from the commencement of the

Mohammedan year, which began on the 20th December, 1846. Counting from the 20th December, without including that day, would bring the date to what Sir E. Hertslet makes it, namely, the 31st May, and it seems probable that some such inadvertence may have been the cause of the error.

I think it may be safely held that the right date is the 20th May (1st June), 1847

(Signed) A. H. OAKES.

Foreign Office, October 30, 1902.

No. 83.

Sir N. O'Connor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received October 29.)

(No. 161. Commercial.)

My Lord,

Therapia, October 25, 1902.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith the text and translation of the Turco-Persian Agreement of 1876, which your Lordship instructed me to procure in your telegram No. 29, Commercial, of the 9th instant. The Tariff mentioned in Article 3 of this instrument was originally drawn up, by an arrangement under Article 8, some three years after the Agreement came into force, and was later superseded by another Tariff prepared in (1308) 1891; a copy of this later Tariff is also inclosed.

Your Lordship will note that Egypt is mentioned in Article 6 of the 1876 Agreement, in so far that it is stipulated that all tumbeki passing through Turkey on its way to Egypt will only pay the customs duty [of 75 per cent.]* in Egypt. The terms of this Agreement do not differ in this particular from those of the Persian-Egyptian Convention, viz., with regard to the amount of duty and place of payment.

The other stipulations of the Turco-Persian Arrangement of 1876 have no connection with Egypt.

I have, &c.
(Signed) N. R. O'CONNOR.

Inclosure 1 in No. 83.

Convention concluded between the Imperial Ottoman Ministry for Foreign Affairs and the Persian Embassy, dated the 28 Zilkadeh, 1291—Kiamun-Erel 8, 1291 (December 20, 1876).

(Translation.)

ARTICLE 1. The importation of salt and tobacco—the products of Persia—in any shape or form, into Turkey, is prohibited; this prohibition will remain operative so long as the same measures enacted against similar products of other countries remain in force.

The Persian Government equally retains the right to prohibit the introduction of salt and tobacco, the products of Turkey, into Persia.

Art. 2. A customs duty of 75 per cent., calculated on the value of the net weight, is to be levied on all tumbeki—the produce of Persia—imported into Turkey by sea or by land; the tumbeki imported into Turkey, and which has once paid the customs import duty, will not, even when it passes into other hands, be subjected to the payment of this or any other duty in any part of the Ottoman dominions.

Art. 3. The customs duty of 75 per cent. on tumbeki will be levied according to a Tariff which is to be drawn up and agreed upon by the two Contracting Parties. The average of the quantities of the different qualities of tumbeki which have been imported at Erzeroum, Bagdad, and Jeddah, during the three months dating from the first of Nissan, 1291, and the valuation of such tumbeki, and upon which the duties have been paid, will be taken as a basis for constructing the Tariff. In order to be able to determine the average quantity and value of certain classes of tumbeki which may not happen to be imported during the aforesaid period of three months, it will be necessary to calculate the averages of such classes by the quantities and lowest values of such imports for one year.

The Tariff will be in force for ten years, dating from the time it is framed.

* The amount is not specified in the Article.

Should either of the Contracting Parties desire to change or modify the Tariff, such desire must be notified by either party three months before the expiry of the term fixed. In case no notification is made, the Tariff will remain in force for another term of ten years, and should no further notification be made by either party before the expiration of the term, it has been agreed that the Tariff shall remain in force for a further period of seven years.

With the conclusion of this Convention, the Contracting Parties agree to appoint a Commission which will be intrusted with the drawing up of the Tariff on the lines already indicated, and will have to consider and determine the amount of tare, allowances for damp and moisture, weight of packing, and such deductions from gross weight as are usual. The Commission will endeavour to terminate its labours before the date on which the Convention comes into force.

Art. 4. The aforesaid duty of 75 per cent. will be collected at the first Ottoman custom-house. It has been decided to afford the following facilities to merchants who may desire to pay the import duty at the place of consumption:—

1. Tumbeki imported by Persian merchants will, on its arrival at the Turkish frontier or at a Turkish port, be handed over to the Customs Administration, where it will be weighed and the tare duly deducted, and, in the event of the tumbeki being intended for sale in that locality, the duty of 75 per cent. will be collected, a receipt for such duty being given.

2. Should such tumbeki not be intended for sale at the place of arrival, but be destined for transportation to another locality, a permit for such transport ("Naklieh Tezkeressi") will be granted on application being made to the Customs Administration. Merchants will, however, before receiving this permit, be called upon by the Administration to give a signed declaration ("Sened") stating that they undertake to transport the tumbeki to the locality indicated within a certain reasonable time (the time allowed for such transport to be determined by the distance between the custom-house of the place of first arrival and the locality), and that the permit ("Naklieh Tezkeressi") will be returned indorsed with the date of arrival of the tumbeki at the locality. In the event of the permit not being returned, the owner of the tumbeki undertakes to at once pay the duty of 75 per cent. Merchants will also have to furnish proper guarantees for the fulfilment of all these conditions. On these formalities being accomplished, the permit ("Naklieh Tezkeressi") and a note of weights ("Tehéki Kaimessi") will be made out, and the merchant will then be free to transport his merchandise. On its arrival at destination the duty must be paid immediately and a receipt taken.

3. Should merchants wish to defer the payment of the duty until such time as purchasers may be found for their tumbeki, they will be obliged to store their merchandise in private warehouses. The doors of these warehouses must be provided with two keys, one of which will remain in the possession of the owner of the merchandise, whilst the other will be kept by the Customs Department.

This facility is equally extended to tumbeki on its first arrival at the frontier town or port, and will be granted on application to the Customs Administration.

Any excess in weight found in tumbeki which has been transported from one locality to another under a permit, and which is due to damp and moisture and not exceeding 2 okes per 100 okes, will be exempted from duty.

Art. 5. The transit of tumbeki through Ottoman territory to foreign countries will be permitted under the same conditions which obtain for foreign countries.

Art. 6. Tumbeki passing through any part of the Ottoman dominions to Moldo-Wallachia, Servia, and Egypt will pay the customs duty at the first custom-house of those countries. Likewise tumbeki passing through those countries, and destined for any part of the Turkish Empire, will pay the customs duty at the first custom-house directly administered by the Ottoman Government.

Merchants who may have imported tumbeki into Turkey and paid the customs duty, and who cannot dispose of their merchandise, will be entitled, when they send the tumbeki to Moldo-Wallachia, Servia, and Egypt within six months from the date of its entry into Turkey, to the refund of the customs duty paid, less 1 per cent.*

Art. 7. The privileges concerning salt and tobacco granted by former Treaties in favour of Persian pilgrims visiting the holy cities, Kerbela and Bagdad, are confirmed. The privileges in these matters which have been granted to pilgrims of foreign nationality are equally extended to Persian pilgrims.

Art. 8. This Convention is to enter into force on the 1st March next, 1292. It

* Transit duty.

has also been agreed that, should the Tariff mentioned in Article 2 [?] be not prepared before the above-mentioned date, the duty of 75 per cent. will be calculated on the wholesale market value of the tumbeki, less 10 per cent., at the place of importation, and the duty will be collected on this basis until the Tariff is ready for application.

Two copies of this Convention have been made, and have been signed and exchanged by the two Contracting Parties.

Inclosure 2 in No. 83.

Tariff recently arranged between Turkey and Persia for Persian "tumbekis" imported into Turkey.

(Traduction.)

1. UNE taxe de 3 piastres sera perçue par kilogramme sur les tumbekis Persans, de tous genres et de toutes espèces, qui seront importés dans l'Empire Ottoman.

2. Les ballots de tumbeki venant aux douanes, après avoir été débarrassés des cordes qui ont servi à les attacher sur le dos des bêtes de somme, seront pesés avec leur couverture (sacs, lainages, ou cuirs). Une tare de 10 pour cent sera déduite et le reste sera taxé comme ci-dessus.

3. Pour les tumbekis transportés en vertu d'un teskéré d'une localité à une autre, il sera tenu compte de l'augmentation du poids résultant de l'humidité, et cela seulement pendant les six mois de l'hiver, c'est-à-dire à partir de la Sainte-Démètre (Rouz Kassem) jusqu'à la Saint-Georges (Rouz Hizr). Toutefois, cette augmentation ne pourra être supérieure de 2 pour cent. Le surplus sera taxé à raison de 3 piastres par kilogramme. Pour les tumbekis transportés pendant les six mois de l'été, aucune augmentation du poids ne sera admise. Tout excédent sera taxé d'après le Tarif.

Pour les tumbekis de transit, s'il est constaté que les sceaux de plomb sont intacts et que la marque et les numéros sont conformes avec ceux indiqués dans les teskéres de transit, il sera perçu aucune taxe pour le surplus. Dans le cas contraire, ces ballots seront pesés et le surplus sera taxé.

4. La taxe de 3 piastres sera perçue en or.

5. Ce Tarif entre en vigueur à partir du 1^{er} Mai de l'année financière 1307. Son terme est de neuf ans. Toutefois, si l'une des Parties Contractantes désirerait le modifier à la fin des trois premières années, elle doit le faire connaître trois mois avant l'expiration de la troisième année. Faute de quoi, le Tarif restera en vigueur pendant neuf ans.

Fait le 21 Chaban, 1308 (19 Mars, 1891, v.s.).

This Tariff supersedes the one of the 2nd Shubat, 1295.

No. 84

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received October 29.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Lord George Hamilton, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of inclosures in a letter from the Foreign Secretary, Simla, dated the 9th instant, relative to the murder of Sheikh Selman-bin-Diaij-el-Khalifah.

India Office, October 28, 1902.

Inclosure 1 in No. 84.

Lieutenant-Colonel Kemball to Government of India.

(Confidential.)

Shiraz, September 6, 1902.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Confidential letter, dated the 4th July last, with inclosures, on the subject of the murder of Sheikh Selman-bin-Diaij-el-Khalifah.

2. From Mr. Gaskin's Report, which I have just received, and copy of which I think it as well to forward herewith, it appears that the facts connected with the case have

not been correctly stated by the Turkish Minister of the Interior. It is evident that the blood-feud of the Behaih was with the Amamerah and not with the Dawasir tribe, and that this feud was settled by Sheikh Rashid, Chief of the Behaih tribe. Further, it appears that there was no blood-feud between the Behaih and Dawasir tribes, that the Dawasir and Amamerah tribes are not inter-connected, and that Sheikh Selman's party had nothing to do with the Dawasirs. The attack was made on Sheikh Selman's camp and not upon the Dawasirs; the Sheikh of the Dawasirs was not killed, and of the attacking side only three were killed, and not thirteen, as stated by the Turkish Minister.

3. With regard to paragraph 3 of your letter, I do not think that any complications will occur should Sheikh Ahmed undertake the rôle of peacemaker between the Chief of Bahrein and the Behaih tribe.

Inclosure 2 in No. 84.

Mr. Gaskin to Lieutenant-Colonel Kemball.

(Confidential.)

Bahrein, August 24, 1902.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Confidential letter, dated the 16th instant, forwarding a copy of Government of India's letter, dated the 4th July last, together with copies of a despatch, dated the 10th May last, from His Britannic Majesty's Ambassador to His Majesty's Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and of a translation of a communiqué of the Turkish Minister of the Interior to the Turkish Foreign Minister on the subject of the murder of Sheikh Selman and his companions.

I would venture to report that the suppositions of the Turkish Minister of the Interior are incorrect and misleading, and the facts of the case have been arranged in a manner to show that the subjects of the Chief of Bahrein were the original aggressors, which is contrary to the facts, and the sequence of occurrences are as follows:—

In 1898 four Amamerah tribesmen accompanied a party of Dawasirs to Thahran to hunt, and the two parties went down the coast below Ojair, where the Amamerah separated to go after gazelle, and were attacked by four Behaih Arabs, who killed one of them named Abdulla-bin-Muhammad, and wounded two named Muhammad and Rashid, sons of Majid, and took their rifles. In the following year the two sons of Majid mentioned above and another named Ghaith-bin-Rashid, of the same tribe, crossed over with two others to hunt and to look out for any Behaih tribesmen, and they fell in with some grazing camels attended by a young son of Sheikh Rashid-bin-Megarih, Sheikh of Behaih, and they took the opportunity to kill the boy in the place of Abdulla-bin-Muhammad. It will be seen from these facts that the Dawasirs have no blood-feud with the Behaih to adjust. After the assassination of the son of Sheikh Rashid, the latter came over to Bahrein and made a settlement with Sheikh Hamed, the eldest son of the Chief of Bahrein, to put aside all further hostilities between him and the Amamerahs.

No Amamerahs accompanied Sheikh Selman on the hunting expedition which proved so disastrous to himself and his followers; and the fact that the camp of the Dawasirs, which was close to his, was not attacked by the Behaih shows that the latter's object was not the Dawasirs. The Amamerahs are a distinct tribe, and have no connection whatever with the Dawasirs, and live in a separate village near the Dawasirs at Al Bidda, on the north-west corner of the Island of Bahrein.

Sheikh Abdulla-bin-Hassan, the Chief of the Dawasir, was not killed in the attack on Sheikh Selman, but another Dawasir. Sheikh Abdulla is still alive, and is personally known to me. The Dawasirs are subjects of the Chief of Bahrein. Rashid-bin-Megarih, the Chief of the Behaih, and his second son and a Behaih tribesman only were killed by a slave of Sheikh Selman in the attack on the latter and his party, and not thirteen persons, as stated by the Turkish Minister of the Interior. The Almurra, Ajman, and two Beni Hajir, companions who went with Sheikh Selman and lost their lives in the attack, were killed by the Behaih, and therefore must not be included in the number of the persons killed by the party attacked.

There was no connection whatever between the party of the late Sheikh Selman and that of the Dawasir tribe. The simultaneous crossing of the two parties to the mainland was a mere coincidence, as that is the usual season for such parties to cross over for the purpose of hawking the "hubara."

It will be observed that the Behaih were the original aggressors against the Amamerahs, whose blood-feud was finally settled amicably, and subsequently the Behaih without any cause attacked the late Sheikh Selman and his party, starting a fresh blood-

feud. As explained in previous correspondence, according to tribal custom, it is only the section of the tribe a member of which sheds blood is responsible, and not the inhabitants of a whole district, as it would seem the Turkish Minister desires to imply. In this case the Behaih assassinated twenty-four persons belonging to Bahrein, and if a balance is struck, there are twenty-one lives to be accounted for by the Behaih; but the Behaih being undoubtedly the aggressors, it seems contrary to justice to allow any deduction being made when settling the matter. The Chief of Bahrein tells me that he cannot accept blood-money for the lives of the three members of his family; and, if peace is to be established between him and the Behaih, the only means to be adopted are those mentioned in the third paragraph of my letter dated the 17th May last. As Sheikh Ahmed-bin-Thani would be acting as a peacemaker between the two parties, I do not see what complications can arise in the future.

I have made careful inquiries regarding the sub-divisions of the Al Murra tribe, and I am informed that neither the Al Murra nor any other tribe in the Al Hassa or Katr districts include a section named Elbidj amongst its sub-divisions.

No. 85.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received October 29.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Lord George Hamilton, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of a telegram to the Viceroy, dated the 24th instant, relative to the appointment of Mr. Fitzmaurice to the Aden Delimitation Commission.

India Office, October 28, 1902.

Inclosure in No. 85.

Lord G. Hamilton to Government of India.

(Telegraphic.) P.

October 24, 1902.

ADEN delimitation: Yours 8th.

Fitzmaurice, Third Dragoman, Constantinople, has been selected as extra Commissioner by Foreign Office on the recommendation of O'Connor, who proposes that he should start as soon as possible. Please inform Resident.

No. 86.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received October 29.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Lord George Hamilton, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of inclosures in a letter from the Foreign Secretary, Simla, dated the 9th instant, relative to the guns recently landed in Bushire for the Persian Government.

India Office, October 28, 1902.

Inclosure 1 in No. 86.

Lieutenant-Colonel Kemball to Government of India.

(Confidential.)

Shiraz, September 6, 1902.

WITH reference to the diary of this Residency, entry No. 10, dated the 21st July, regarding the landing in Bushire of four guns of position, I have the honour to forward copies of the correspondence which has passed between this Residency and the Legation at Tehran on the subject.

Inclosure 2 in No. 86.

Mr. des Graz to Lieutenant-Colonel Kemball.

(Telegraphic.)

August 23, 1902.

DIARY inclosed in your despatch 100 of 11th reports landing four big guns Bushire. Kindly ascertain and inform by telegraph regarding calibre, system, name makers, quantity ammunition, for what sites destined, whether sites already prepared.

Inclosure 3 in No. 86.

Lieutenant-Colonel Kemball to Mr. des Graz.

(Confidential.)

Shiraz, September 5, 1902.

IN continuation of the correspondence ending with my telegram, dated the 29th ultimo, about the four big guns recently landed in Bushire, I have the honour to forward copy of a Memorandum prepared by my First Assistant, Captain Hunt. I had informed Captain Hunt that the Russian Consul had told me that six guns had arrived in Bushire. It, however, appears that the number originally given is correct.

Inclosure 4 in No. 86.

Memorandum by Captain Hunt.

IN continuation of my telegram of date about the guns landed *ex* steam-ship "Tigris." To-day being Friday, when the Customs is closed, I judged the opportunity a good one to endeavour to see what I could of the guns. I accordingly went into town early, and walked across to the Custom-house on the pretext of searching for a bale or box of goods I expected. The Hamil Bashi was there, and, as we passed near the cases containing the guns, told me what they were, and on my expressing interest in their appearance, he prised up the lid of one which was loose, and gave me a look at the contents. This case contained merely an Howitzer without sights and fittings and with the cascabel screwed out. I should put it down as a 10-inch R.M.L. Howitzer of a not very modern pattern and of foreign make. The carriages are iron. There are two of these. There are also two other guns, the cases of which are fastened, and so I could not get a glimpse of them, but judging from their carriages, which are wooden with very long trails, I fancy they will prove to be M.L. 40-pr. or 64-pr. These, too, are not of English pattern.

The wheels, which were lying by wrapped in straw, were very much smaller than the ones used with English M.L. Howitzers of 40-pr.

There are two large cases of shells, I suppose, unfilled; but it is impossible to form any opinion of the number of rounds and the kind of shell, as they were closed, and I presume all the fittings of the guns, *i.e.*, sights, elevating gear, &c., are also in these cases, which are not likely to be opened until the artillery expert from Tehran comes down to set the guns up.

No sites are being prepared here, and the rumour is that they are to be installed on Ormuz Island!

The Russian Consul got his numbers from the local newspaper, the "Muzafferi," which was wrong.

I am sorry I can give no further details about these weapons until they are unpacked.

August 29, 1902.

No. 87.

Sir R. Rodd to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received October 29.)

(No. 68.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Rome, October 29, 1902.

RED Sea pirates: Following with reference to your Lordship's telegram No. 36. Minister for Foreign Affairs informs me that he has as yet received no further communication from the Commander of the Italian squadron, but that the term fixed for carrying out the conditions imposed on the authorities of the Yemen expired to-day.

No. 88.

Sir N. O'Connor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received October 29.)

(No. 113.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Constantinople, October 29, 1902.

YOUR Lordship's telegram No. 126 of yesterday.

I see no objection to instructing Senior Naval Officer to prevent, if necessary, the Turks from occupying Ras-el-Arah, or any place on the sea coast; but I can hardly think the Turks will be so rash, under present circumstances, as to attempt such a thing.

It would not be just for ourselves to occupy places in disputed territory while we are insisting on the Turks not doing so.

I presume that the frontier will eventually be delimited by the Commission down to the sea, but until the north-eastern boundary is settled I think we had better refrain from opening this question.

No. 89.

Mr. Erskine to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received October 29.)

(No. 65.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Tehran, October 29, 1902.

HIS Majesty's Consul-General at Isfahan has been informed by the Zil-es-Sultan, that a further loan of 3,000,000*l.* has been arranged with Russia, and that the conditions of the new loan are: a concession for a railway from Tehran to Isfahan, a prolongation for ninety years of the Enzeli Fishing Agreement, and that the money is to be coined in Russia and given to Persia by instalments.

No. 90.

Foreign Office to India Office.

(Confidential.)

Sir,

Foreign Office, October 29, 1902.

I AM directed by the Marquess of Lansdowne to state that he has carefully considered the proposal contained in your letter of the 3rd instant that a negotiation should be opened with the Sultan of Muscat for the restoration of Gwadar to the Khan of Khelat in return for a money payment.

It does not appear to Lord Lansdowne that such a transaction would strictly speaking be in contravention of the Anglo-French Declaration of the 10th March, 1862, as that instrument contains only an engagement to respect the independence of the Sultan which cannot be said to be affected by the sale of a small outlying dependency in an isolated position on the opposite mainland.

It must, however, be expected that the French Government will use all their influence to oppose a transaction which they will regard, not altogether without reason, as tantamount to the acquisition of this territory by Great Britain, and considering the very decided action which was taken by Great Britain to prevent the lease to France of a separate coaling depôt in the neighbourhood of Muscat, it appears to Lord Lansdowne that they would have at least colourable grounds for their opposition.

Lord Lansdowne does not think that it would be judicious to raise such a question at the present moment, and he would suggest for the consideration of the Secretary of State for India whether it might not be possible that the proposal should be of a more limited character, as for instance, that the Customs Administration of Gwadar should be leased to the Khan of Khelat for a term of years in consideration of a fixed annual stipend.

I am, &c.

(Signed) T. H. SANDERSON.

No. 91.

Foreign Office to India Office.

Sir,

Foreign Office, October 29, 1902.

WITH reference to my letter of the 23rd instant, I am directed by the Marquess of Lansdowne to inform you that he has now received a reply from His Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople in regard to the proposal of the Government of India that the Sheikh of Bahrein should be authorized to negotiate with the Behaih tribe through Sheikh Ahmed-bin-Thani, respecting the murder of his subjects near Katif.

Sir N. O'Connor is of opinion that, in the circumstances, the course proposed is probably the best, and Lord Lansdowne concurs in this view.

I am, &c.

(Signed) T. H. SANDERSON.

No. 92.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received October 30.)

Sir,

India Office, October 29, 1902.

I AM directed by Lord George Hamilton to forward, for Lord Lansdowne's information, a copy of a further telegram from the Viceroy, regarding the Perso-Afghan boundary dispute.

Lord George Hamilton proposes, subject to Lord Lansdowne's concurrence, to approve the action which the Viceroy contemplates. In the meantime he would suggest that a further strong remonstrance be addressed to the Persian Government against their action in sending up reinforcements at the present moment, and that they should be reminded that, under the Vith Article of the Treaty of 1857, they are bound not to take up arms unless the friendly offices of the British Government fail of effect.

I am, &c.

(Signed) HORACE WALPOLE.

Inclosure in No. 92.

Government of India to Lord G. Hamilton.

(Telegraphic.) P.

October 27, 1902.

MY telegram of the 21st October: Seistan boundary.

I have received Amcer's reply to my letters of the 31st July and 3rd October, which is to the following effect:—

The necessity of referring to Chakansur is stated as the cause of the delay in replying. No reference whatever is made to the proposal to depute a British officer as Arbitrator. Though it is clear from the correspondence that his local officers have hitherto claimed the main stream of the Helmund as fixing the boundary, he states that he does not rely on this; but he argues that as Goldsmid's map shows red boundary as west of the Helmund, the whole river from Bund-i-Seistan, at Kohak, to Shahgul Bund, which is lower down the stream, at any rate, is included in Afghanistan. Apparently, also on the strength of the map, he claims the whole of the Hamun. He proposes that the local Hakeem should dispose of the dispute unless some contention worth consideration is put forward by the Persians, in which case the matter will be discussed through the Government of India. It appears that his Highness thinks that if the whole of the Helmund, including the Seistan Bund, belongs to Afghanistan, he

can do whatever he pleases with the water, and divert the whole of it to Chakansur or elsewhere. This is what the local officials are already trying to do to some extent. But Goldsmid's arbitral opinion, of which Ameer is apparently ignorant, is entirely opposed to this contention. I am awaiting his Highness' reply to my communication through the British Agent at Cabul, reported to you in my telegram of the 21st October. It is probable that he will merely say that he has already answered. If so, I propose to write again immediately to explain the nature of his mistake, to refer to the action of his subjects in Seistan, and to emphasize the Treaty aspect of the situation and the local danger of further delay. The situation is reported by Benn to be critical, and there is confirmation of the march of 300 more troops from Birjand. I propose, therefore, that McMahon should start at once. If necessary, he should halt at Nushki. Whether he can march thence by the Helmund route, or must go round by Koh-i-Malik Shah, depends on the nature of the Ameer's reply.

No. 93.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Mr. Erskine.

(No. 54.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Foreign Office, October 30, 1902.

I HAVE repeated to you a telegram from the Viceroy of India, dated the 27th instant, respecting the Perso-Afghan frontier question. I request that you will make a representation to the Persian Government, strongly deprecating the dispatch of reinforcements from Birjand at the present moment as tending to aggravate the situation. You should at the same time remind them of their obligation not to take up arms unless His Majesty's Government's friendly offices fail of effect, as provided in Article VI of the Treaty of 1857.

No. 94.

Foreign Office to India Office.

(Confidential.)

Sir,

Foreign Office, October 30, 1902.

WITH reference to my letter of the 28th instant, relative to the report that the Turkish Government intend to occupy Ras-el-Arah, on the south coast of Arabia, I am directed by the Marquess of Lansdowne to transmit to you a copy of a telegram from His Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople,* replying to the message addressed to his Excellency on the subject. It will be seen that Sir N. O'Connor sees no objection to instructions being sent to the British naval authorities to prevent the occupation by Turkish forces of Ras-el-Arah or any other place on the coast which His Majesty's Government regard as within the British Protectorate, but for the reasons stated in the telegram, he does not consider that the occupation of Ras-el-Arah by a British detachment would be advisable in present circumstances.

I am to state that Lord Lansdowne concurs in this view, and would suggest that the Viceroy should be informed accordingly.

I am, &c.

(Signed) T. H. SANDERSON.

No. 95.

Foreign Office to India Office.

(Confidential.)

Sir,

Foreign Office, October 30, 1902.

I HAVE laid before the Marquess of Lansdowne your letter of the 29th instant, inclosing a copy of a telegram from the Viceroy of India regarding the question of the Perso-Afghan boundary.

Lord Lansdowne concurs in Lord George Hamilton's proposal to approve the action contemplated by the Viceroy.

I am to inclose a copy of a telegram which, in accordance with Lord George

* No. 88.

No. 92*.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to the Earl of Cromer.

No. 9. Commercial.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Foreign Office, October 30, 1902.

PLEASE see print, "Persia," the 29th September, Section 5, and the 7th October, Section 1, also my telegram No. 7, Commercial, of the 17th instant.

His Majesty's Government wish to inform the Persian Government that the Perso-Egyptian commercial relations depend on the arrangements and Treaties which were in force before the year 1873 and on the Tombac Convention of 1891, and that no arrangement subsequently arrived at between Turkey and Persia to which Egypt is not a party can affect them. They also wish to inform the Persian Government that this country intends to claim the Tariff advantages to which Egypt is still entitled, on the assumption above set forth. I would be glad to learn whether your Lordship has any objections to such a communication being made to the Persian Government.

His Majesty's Minister at Tehran is very desirous of receiving his instructions before the Shah's final sanction to the Perso-Russian Tariff is obtained and the Persian Government is thereby compromised.

Hamilton's suggestion, has been sent to His Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at Tehran,* instructing him to address a remonstrance to the Persian Government against the dispatch of reinforcements at the present moment, and to remind them of their obligations under Article VI of the Treaty of 1857.

I am, &c.

(Signed) T. H. SANDERSON.

No. 96.

Hamid Bey to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received October 31.)

*Ambassade Impériale de Turquie, Londres,
le 30 Octobre, 1902.*

M. le Marquis,

J'AI l'honneur de porter à la haute connaissance de votre Seigneurie la communication suivante que j'ai reçue de mon Gouvernement :—

"Le Ministre des Affaires Étrangères Italien persistant dans son refus d'acquiescer à la demande du Gouvernement Impérial Ottoman concernant le délai fixé dans l'ultimatum du Commandant Naval Italien en ce qui concerne l'incident de la Mer Rouge, la Sublime Porte déclare que ce refus est aussi injustifiable qu'injustifié et elle fait remarquer que le Gouvernement Impérial, mû par ses sentiments de conciliation, a adhéré à toutes les demandes que le Gouvernement Italien a formulées à l'occasion de l'incident dont il s'agit et que les engagements qu'elle avait pris ont déjà reçu un commencement d'exécution. Quelques pirates ont été déjà arrêtés et la Sublime Porte a le ferme espoir que les autres ne tarderont pas à l'être. Elle estime que dès lors il n'y a aucun motif plausible qui puisse justifier l'insistance que met le Gouvernement Italien à montrer des intentions agressives.

"La Sublime Porte ajoute que cette insistance est contraire tant aux principes du droit et de l'équité qu'aux assurances que le Gouvernement Italien lui a données naguère et d'après lesquelles il considérait l'incident comme clos en présence des dispositions conciliantes témoignées par le Gouvernement de Sa Majesté Impériale le Sultan."

J'ai, &c.

(Signé) A. HAMID.

No. 97.

Sir N. O'Connor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received October 31.)

(No. 114)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Constantinople, October 30, 1902.

MY telegram No. 112 of 28th instant.

I was courteously allowed by the Porte to-day to see the draft of the note to be sent to the Embassy in reply to my representations respecting the Aden frontier delimitation.

The note says that if it be the fact, of which the Imperial Government has no proof, that the four places mentioned by me have been recently occupied, the troops will be ordered to withdraw, but that places where Government or military buildings exist, or places known to be within Ottoman territory, are excluded.

It states that the frontier delimitation is to be proceeded with north-eastwards to the desert, and it concludes by saying that the local authorities will receive orders in the above sense.

I raised the following objections to accepting the note as drafted :—

1. That my protest was fundamentally directed against the occupation, pending inquiry as to ownership, of any places in the territory in dispute.

2. That the question of withdrawal was left undecided, and was referred to the decision of the local authorities.

3. That whether these places had been recently occupied or not, was a side issue ; and

1. That ownership could not be proved by the existence of Turkish buildings, and I quoted Ad Dareja as an instance.

During the afternoon I received a message from His Majesty saying that payment would immediately be made of all claims of British Indian subjects, and that he hoped His Majesty's ship "Harrier" would not remain any longer at Hodeidah. I told the Minister that it was far more likely that two other ships would go there unless the Aden question were promptly settled.

No. 98.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir N. O'Connor.

(No. 326. Confidential.)

Sir,

Foreign Office, October 31, 1902.

I HAVE received your Excellency's despatch No. 460, Confidential, of the 21st instant, inclosing a despatch from His Majesty's Consul at Bussorah relative to an application of the Muntelik Arabs for British protection, and their subsequent attempt to obtain Russian protection.

I request that you will instruct Mr. Wratishaw to report any further results of their application for Russian protection which may come to his knowledge.

I am, &c.

(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

No. 99.

Sir E. Monson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received November 1.)

(No. 408.)

My Lord,

Paris, October 31, 1902.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 387 of the 22nd instant respecting the Arab named Salem Kemri, who had been induced, under false pretences, to come to Paris to give instruction in Arabic in M. Piat's house, and who was put by that gentleman into a lunatic asylum for refusing to co-operate in an anti-English propaganda, I have the honour to state that it is understood that the servant in Salem Kemri's employ is now in the service of M. Piat, who is stated to have found another assistant in Salem Kemri's place. M. Piat is described in the official Directory of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs as being "employed on special service."

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

No. 100.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received November 1.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Lord George Hamilton, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of a telegram from the Viceroy, dated the 31st October, relative to the Perso-Afghan boundary dispute.

Paraphrases and a letter on the subject will follow.

India Office, November 1, 1902.

No. 97 A.

The Earl of Cromer to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received October 31.)

(No. 17. Commercial.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Cairo, October 31, 1902.

PERSIAN Customs arrangements.

Your Lordship's telegram No. 9, Commercial, of yesterday's date.

There is a consensus of opinion amongst the authorities here to the effect that, as no general Commercial Convention has been concluded between Persia and Egypt, the latter country would be bound to adhere to whatever commercial arrangements are in force between the Turkish and Persian Governments. The general issue is not affected by the special Tombac Convention concluded in 1887 and renewed in 1891.

My own opinion is in accordance with this view. Before the receipt of your Lordship's last telegram I had caused the question to be examined, and, by next mail, I shall have the honour to forward to your Lordship a Memorandum in which the matter is more fully treated by Mr. Chitty, the Egyptian Director-General of Customs.

No. 97 B.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to the Earl of Cromer.

(No. 10. Commercial.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Foreign Office, October 31, 1902.

I HAVE received your Lordship's telegram No. 17, Commercial, of the 31st instant, relative to Tariff question between Egypt and Persia.

Please see my predecessor's despatch No. 29, Commercial, of the 29th July, 1890, which was carefully considered and drawn up after consultation with the Law Officers of the Crown.

Inclosure in No. 100.

Government of India to Lord G. Hamilton.

(Telegraphic.) P.

October 31, 1902.

MY telegram of 27th. 700 armed Persian labourers are reported by Benn on 18th to be employed in opening a new channel above Shahgul Bund, which Persians anticipate will prevent water reaching the old Helmund channel. Their operations are being watched by Afghans on opposite bank. The Afghans hope to be able permanently to divert the Helmund by a deep channel above Seistan Bund, on which they are now working under a commandant with a guard of 100 men. Other troops have been warned to be present on day of opening the new channel. Yamin-i-Nazim, who is in frequent consultation with Miller, has disapproved of Karguzar's proposal to seek the intervention of Benn. There is no water at Mian Kangi, but it has reached land between Parium Nasratabad and village to south-west, and unless the Afghans open their new channel the spring harvest should be assured. On 18th October Benn was instructed to inform Akhundzada that if collision resulted from opening of fresh canals and construction of new bunds, the Ameer would be held responsible, since the British arbitrator might have already reached Seistan had my letters to His Highness been promptly answered. Minister at Tehran has been kept informed.

No. 101.

Sir N. O'Connor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received November 1.)

(No. 115.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Constantinople, November 1, 1902.

MY telegram No. 114 respecting Aden frontier.

A satisfactory note from the Porte has just reached me, in which it is stated that, in conformity with the demands formulated by the Embassy, orders have been given for proceeding with the delimitation of the frontier north-eastwards to the desert, and for withdrawing the Turkish troops from the four places recently occupied.

No. 102.

Mr. Erskine to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received November 1.)

(No. 66.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Tehran, November 1, 1902.

REINFORCEMENTS for Seistan.

Yesterday I made representations to the Grand Vizier in the sense of your Lordship's telegram No. 54 of the 30th ultimo.

He assured me that he would inquire into the matter, and that he would at once send orders to stop any troops being sent to Seistan in excess of the numbers required to relieve the regiment at present there.

No. 103.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir N. O'Connor.

(No. 132.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Foreign Office, November 1, 1902.

ADEN delimitation.

I have received your telegrams Nos. 114 and 115 of 31st October and 1st November.

I entirely approve your language, and congratulate you on successful result of negotiations.

No. 104.

Mr. des Graz to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received November 3.)

(No. 137. Confidential.)

My Lord,

Tehran, October 8, 1902.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith a copy of the note I addressed to the Minister for Foreign Affairs, in obedience to the instructions conveyed to me in your Lordship's telegram No. 43 of the 26th August, recalling the promises made at different times by the Persian Government with regard to Mohammerah and the position of the Sheikh, and asking to be officially informed of the conditions of the new Agreement between the Persian Government and the Sheikh of Mohammerah, as to the establishment of a custom-house at that place.

I have also the honour to inclose a translation of the Agreement in question, which has been communicated to His Majesty's Legation under a pledge of secrecy by the Sheikh's Agent.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CHARLES DES GRAZ.

P.S.—I also inclose a précis of two conversations between Mr. Grahame and the Reisu-t-Tujjar on the same subject.

C. DES G.

Inclosure 1 in No. 104.

Mr. des Graz to Mushir-ed-Dowleh.

M. le Ministre,

Gulabek, September 17, 1902.

I HAVE the honour to inform your Excellency that His Majesty's Government have recently heard that an arrangement has been concluded between the Imperial Government and the Sheikh of Mohammerah respecting the establishment of Customs.

The great and friendly interest taken by His Majesty's Government in the question is well known to, and has often been recognized by, the Persian Government.

I need only refer to the promise given in October 1897 to His Majesty's Representative in Tehran, that the Customs of Southern Persia should never be placed under foreign control or supervision; further, in 1900, when the customs revenues were pledged as security for the loan obtained from the Russian Banque des Prêts, a special exception was made of the revenues and ports of Southern Persia; and again when Mr. Spring Rice, His Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires, in April 1900 called your Excellency's attention to the interest which the British Government had in the ports of Mohammerah, Bushire, Bander Abbas, and other ports of the Persian Gulf, and insisted on the right of His Majesty's Government to be consulted before any change was made in the administration of the Customs at Mohammerah, or in the position of the Sheikh, your Excellency replied that "not only in Mohammerah, but in every part of Persia where British interests were concerned, the Persian Government, before taking any steps of importance, would consult the British Government, an assurance taken note of with satisfaction by His Majesty's Government.

His Majesty's Government are desirous of learning the terms of the new Agreement, and, in compliance with my instructions, I have the honour to request your Excellency to inform me officially of the exact conditions of the Agreement in question for purposes of record, and with the understanding that His Majesty's Government should be made acquainted with any change which it might be proposed to make in them.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CHARLES DES GRAZ.

Inclosure 2 in No. 104.

List of the Requests of his Excellency Maiz-es-Sultaneh.

1. AS regards the compliance with the order of the Persian Government in the matter of the customs and with regard to putting a new Tariff in force, he obeys; but in order that the Arab tribes and clans may not be alarmed at the outset, he requests that

for a time he may be entrusted with the putting in force of the new Tariff, so that he may make them understand that a tiresome burden will not be (put) upon them. He will hold, in accordance with orders from the Customary Ministry, and hand over the customs revenues month by month to any quarter which the Ministry of Customs may order; that a Belgian Examiner of Accounts come once a month to examine the books and accounts and business there. Should there be any discrepancy demonstrated, Maiz-es-Sultaneh will acquit himself of the responsibility.

2. Should this proposal and loyal request of this humble servant not be considered advisable, that a Persian official from the Customs who is acquainted with the ways of the Arab clans be appointed to put the new Tariff in force; should there be a foreign official from the outset, or should a matter of importance be put in force, I fear that difficulties might arise.

3. The customs revenues which, according to the usage of years, are included in the taxes ("malyat") paid over year by year to the Government of Arabistan, these they must order to be reserved (deducted) from the "malyat" itself.

4. The Customs Administration has no right to interfere in the concerns of the Arabs and the provincial Government (or) to interfere in any kind of matter which is outside Customs business.

5. They must ask this humble servant himself to appoint the workmen and servants who may be requisite for the Customs, so that, should there be a fault or lack of order in the Customs, this devoted servant should be responsible; should they wish to appoint servants themselves, (and) God forbid—should there be any irregularity or fault or theft, then they should not hold this humble servant responsible for order or protection.

6. As to the new Tariff contemplated, dates and berries, &c., must be exempt at export; customs dues must not be levied; and on import they shall pay 5 per cent.; should more be levied at other frontier places, then more must be imposed at Mohammerah also, but on the understanding that nothing further shall be claimed from that which pays at the frontier, in order that the trade of Mohammerah and Arabistan also may be confident in this matter and free and hopeful.

7. That assurances be given to the Arabs and tribes and clans that those gardens and date plantations of Mohammerah and dependencies, which they themselves and their forefathers have planted, shall not in the future be taken from their possession, and that they may possess their own property in confidence, and that the Government will never contemplate selling these under the title of Crown lands; that the land tax be paid according to the custom of former years; that a Firman of proprietary rights be granted to them that they may be hopeful and secure.

8. Seeing that when the customs go out of the hands of this humble servant, the difference which for years came to me and to the expenses of the frontier from the customs there disappears, therefore M. Simais made an agreement and gave me a writing that a salary of 1,000 tomans per month should be allotted me out of the customs revenues, that I might attend to the protection of the frontier and to the guardians of order. I would request that a Firman on this point also may be issued and granted.

9. That the Karun lands to the east, which are included in Mohammerah territory, and are a place of cultivation and (a place) of the tribes and clans of this humble servant, should be granted (to him) as property in the same way that the Karun lands to the west opposite these were granted as property to his Excellency Nizam-es-Sultaneh, and he (i.e., Maiz-es-Sultaneh) will of his own accord give a present for them. The land tax (malyat) will be paid as formerly.

10. As to Dehmulla and Hindijan, which are Crown lands, and are an asset in the account* of this humble servant, he consents to pay the Government taxes (malyat-i-diwani) for those places, he prays that they may be granted to him in proprietary right; the present usual in the case of Crown land will be obediently made the object of this humble servant is that at some time by an artifice these lands should not be bought by others, which would cause trouble and dispute and that they should be a cause of hope and keep the people occupied in cultivation and (give them) peace and quiet.

Answers to the Claims of his Excellency Maiz-es-Sultaneh.

With reference to clauses Nos. 1, 2, and 5. His Excellency Maiz-es-Sultaneh has been promoted to the dignity of Head of the Customs of the ports of Mohammerah and Arabistan, and must in all matters exercise full care and attention (inquiry), and give effect on occasion to the directions of the Ministry of Customs, but as there is not in the ports

* Or "under my control."

Mohammerah a suitable and proper official, who is capable of performing these functions, and of levying and paying over the customs dues according to the new Tariff which will actually be (or "is actually") levied at the other frontiers, therefore the Hon. M. Waflarat, a Belgian official in the service of the Imperial Government of Persia, will be sent together with Mirza Ayanis, a natural-born Persian subject, to help the said M. Waflarat; that M. Waflarat should have the rank of Departmental Head under the general direction, and his Excellency Maiz-es-Sultaneh should also be under the orders of the Ministry of Customs. It is clear that M. Waflarat must act with all deference and respect towards the aforesaid (Maiz-es-Sultaneh) and in all matters pertaining to the customs in regard to the Arabs and the population, he must on necessary occasions accept and comply with the counsels and orders of his Excellency Maiz-es-Sultaneh, and in like manner his Excellency Maiz-es-Sultaneh is bound to act in all friendliness to the officials, and give them the fullest support and assistance, and is also bound to allow his small steam-boats to be at the disposal of them (the Customs officials) whenever the Customs Administration may wish to examine and inspect ships carrying merchandise, in order that they may be able to levy the dues of 5 per cent. on all merchandise incoming and outgoing. It is certified that in this case not a dinar shall be levied in the interior under any name or usage from the merchandise which has paid its dues. The appointment and selection of the servants and officials necessary for the Customs Administration will assuredly be (made) with his Excellency Maiz-es-Sultaneh's approval.

3. This will be accepted as requested.

4. As has been set forth, the Customs Administration will not interfere in any way whatever with the business of the Provincial Government ("Hukoumat").

5. The answer has been given in the 1st and 2nd Articles.

6. Dates and other fruits, fresh and dry, which are produced in Mohammerah and the district thereof, will be entirely and always exempt and free from export customs dues. It must be noted that the export of grain is forbidden, but whenever the Imperial Government knows that the grain product is in excess of the food requirements of the inhabitants and dwellers in that district, then it will give special permission in regard to the export of grain, and conditions as regard levy of customs dues in that district also will be laid down in accordance with the conditions which may be laid down in other ports.

7. On this matter a separate autograph has been issued by His Glorious, Blessed, Most Holy Imperial Majesty.

(Here writing, apparently Shah's "sahih.")

8. Certainly salary must be given to his Excellency Maiz-es-Sultaneh in return for his services: 1,000 tomans a-month, which is a yearly salary of 12,000 tomans, must be given to his Excellency Maiz-es-Sultaneh as salary from the Customs.

(Here writing, which appears to be the Shah's "sahih.")

9 and 10. In regard to these two requests of his Excellency Maiz-es-Sultaneh a separate autograph of His Imperial Majesty has been issued.

(Here writing, apparently Shah's "sahih.")

(Seal apparently of Shah.)

These requests and concerns of Maiz-es-Sultaneh, Sheikh Khazal Khan, which the Ministry of Customs has, with the cognizance of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs, accepted, and has written an answer, are correct.

Let them be carried out.

In the month of Rabi-ul-Sani 1320.

(Here writing, apparently Shah's autograph.)

(Seal of Atabeg-i-Azam.)

Inclosure 3 in No. 104.

Précis of two conversations between Mr. Grahame and Reis-ut-Tujjar.

IN a conversation on the 15th September, Sheikh Ali also drew my attention to part of Article 1, by which he asserted that the Sheikh maintained right of selection of persons employed in Customs. I pointed out that the phrase "appointed with the approval of the Sheikh" scarcely warranted that construction, and might give rise to differences of interpretation in practice. The Sheikh smiled, and, lifting up the document between his finger and thumb, said that it was only a piece of paper. They know that and did not trust much to it. I asked what they did trust in. He replied, "In ourselves and our rifles. The Sheikh could put 40,000 men (of whom 10,000 were mounted) into

the field all armed with Martinis." I asked him if the Sheikh was not afraid of the Bakhtiari being set upon him. He said the Bakhtiari would never want to attack them. Besides, the Bakhtiari were not now, as formerly, all followers of one acknowledged head. There were five or six heads who each claimed supremacy and were all divided against each other.

The Reis-ut-Tujjar called on me at the Legation in Tehran half-an-hour before sunset, as arranged, in order to hand me a copy of the Agreement between the Persian Government and Sheikh Khazzal of Mohammerah (Maiz-es-Sultaneh) regarding the Customs of Arabistan. He produced to me the document which he had shown me on the 15th September, together with a copy which he said had been prepared by him. He handed the original to me and read out the copy, which appeared to be exact. The document is in the form of requests, ten in number, on the part of the Sheikh of Mohammerah, with the answers written on the opposite leaf. Answers to Nos. 7, 8, 9, and 10 bear under them what appears to be the Shah's "sahih."

At the end of the answers in the original document three lines of writing in quite a different hand (perhaps the Shah's) run diagonally across the page, under which is apparently the Shah's "sahih." These had not been copied in the copy. I asked Sheikh Mohammed Ali to add them. He said that he would prefer that I should do so. Thinking that perhaps he could not write himself and did not wish to admit this, I myself copied the few lines of diagonal writing. He then told me that he intended leaving in a few days for Meshed; he would be absent for about forty days. His object for undertaking this pilgrimage now was chiefly because he did not wish to leave Tehran without seeing His Majesty's Minister, and if he remained in Tehran till the return of the latter, it might arouse the suspicions of the Persian Government, which was already trying to hurry him back to Mohammerah. He begged me in the meantime to take in his absence a copy of the copy now handed to me of the original Agreement, as he did not wish the copy in his own writing to remain with us. He urged the strictest secrecy as regards the document communicated, which must never be shown to any Persian, and the communication of which by him to the Legation must never be revealed, directly or indirectly. I questioned him again as to the Firmans alluded to in this document. He said that they had been sent to Mohammerah and he had no copies of them. They were immaterial to the understanding of the conditions of the Agreement.

No. 105.

Mr. des Graz to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received November 3.)

(No. 138. Confidential.)

My Lord,

Tehran, October 9, 1902.

AS I had the honour of reporting to your Lordship in my telegram No. 53 of the 8th ultimo, rumours have been current here for some time that the Persian Government intended to apply to the Russian Government for a fresh loan or for an increase of the loan contracted this spring.

It has not transpired here how far the Persian Government have succeeded in the endeavour ascribed to them, but it is reported that M. Naus visited St. Petersburg on the question of the new Perso-Russian Customs Tariff, and it is naturally said that he was charged with financial negotiations with M. de Witte.

A large consignment of 5-kran pieces minted in Russia has quite recently arrived in Tehran, giving rise to the speculation whether the Persian Government have conceded to the Banque des Prêts or the Russian Government the right of minting all their silver coin for them.

It seems difficult, however, to believe that such is the case, bearing in mind the value attaching, particularly in the East, to minting as one of the prerogatives of sovereignty.

I learn from an almost certain source that 5-kran pieces to the amount of 250,000 tomans have already reached Tehran, and that 350,000 tomans' worth will or may still be sent from Russia, making a total of 600,000 tomans.

I have, &c.

(Signed) CHARLES DES GRAZ.

No. 106.

Mr. des Graz to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received November 3.)

(No. 139.)

My Lord,

Tehran, October 11, 1902.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith a copy of a note which I have received from the Customs Administration relative to the action of Messrs. Lynch Brothers, in refusing to submit to the requirements of the new Customs-house established at Mohammerah.

I also transmit a copy of a telegram from Messrs. Lynch's agent, and of the notes which I addressed to the Customs Administration and to the Persian Government.

On receipt of your Lordship's telegram No. 50 of yesterday's date, I addressed a further note to the Persian Government, copy of which is also inclosed.

I have, &c.

(Signed) CHARLES DES GRAZ.

Inclosure 1 in No. 106.

M. Priem to Mr. des Graz.

Monsieur,

Ministère des Douanes, Téhéran, le 25 Septembre, 1902.

LE Directeur du Bureau des Douanes à Mohammerah vient de m'informer qu'il rencontre des difficultés avec la maison Anglaise Lynch Brothers, de la même résidence, qui refuse de se soumettre aux formalités douanières établies actuellement dans ce port au point de vue du déchargement des marchandises, ainsi qu'à celles exigées pour la vérification et l'acquittement des droits.

Le nouveau régime établi dans la région de Mohammerah ne diffère en rien de celui existant actuellement dans les autres ports du Golfe Persique, et il n'est que rationnel que tous les négociants, sans distinction de nationalité, se soumettent aux susdites formalités.

En conséquence j'ai l'honneur de vous prier de bien vouloir faire donner des ordres dans ce sens au Consulat Britannique de Mohammerah.

Veuillez, &c.

(Signed) J. PRIEM,

Administrateur-Général des Douanes ad interim.

Inclosure 2 in No. 106.

Mr. Taylor to Mr. des Graz.

(Telegraphic.)

Ispahan, October 2, 1902.

BELGIAN Administration, having taken over Arabestan Customs, demand duty all cargo be paid at Mohammerah. I beg refer you to following documents in your Legation, namely, Memorandum from Sir H. Wolff to Amin-es-Sultan, dated 14th February, 1890, third paragraph of which reads that customs shall be collected at Mohammerah, Ahwaz, and Shuster, according to destination of goods. Amin Sultan's acceptance of Memorandum confirmed by His Imperial Majesty the Shah of same date. These documents amount to undertaking levy duties Ahwaz, Shuster, and I beg request your support, otherwise entire through-traffic arrangements will be vitiated, causing extra expense to consignees. Owing to sudden change in routine without previous notice, quantity through cargo destined Ahwaz, Shuster, is detained at Mohammerah.

Inclosure 3 in No. 106.

Mr. des Graz to M. Priem.

M. l'Administrateur-Général ad interim,

Téhéran, le 4 Octobre, 1902.

J'AI l'honneur d'accuser réception de votre lettre en date du 25 Septembre me faisant part de la réclamation du Directeur des Douanes à Mohammerah contre la maison Lynch Brothers.

Je crois devoir observer qu'aucun avis officiel ne m'est parvenu jusqu'ici de la part du Gouvernement Persan par rapport à un changement définitif du régime douanier à Mohammerah.

Entretiens j'ai reçu de mon côté un télégramme de l'agent de la maison Lynch se plaignant de ce que sans aucun avis préalable et contrairement aux usages et coutumes en vogue jusqu'à présent dans cette région, la nouvelle Administration douanière chercherait maintenant à faire percevoir à Mohammerah les droits de douane sur toutes les marchandises à destination d'Ahwaz et de Shuster.

La maison Lynch, basant sa réclamation sur les promesses faites par son Altesse le Grand Vizier actuel au Ministre d'Angleterre en 1890, ainsi que sur les usages reconnus depuis l'ouverture du Karun, vient de faire appel à cette Légation pour faire valoir ses droits-réclamation qu'il est de mon devoir de transmettre au Ministre des Affaires Étrangères.

Je me plais à espérer qu'il sera possible d'arriver à un arrangement qui, tout en faisant droit aux réclamations de MM. Lynch, ne nuise pas aux intérêts du Département des Douanes.

Veuillez, &c.

(Signed) C. DES GRAZ.

Inclosure 4 in No. 106.

Mr. des Graz to Mushir-ed-Dowleh.

M. le Ministre,

Tehran, October 4, 1902.

I HAVE the honour to inform your Excellency that I have received a telegram from Messrs. Lynch informing me that a new Administration has taken over the Arabestan Customs and complaining that, whereas until now, customs duty on goods destined for places above Mohammerah has been paid at the place of destination, the above Administration now demand, without having given any previous notice, that duty on all cargo should be paid at Mohammerah, thereby vitiating through-traffic arrangements and causing extra expense to consignees. In consequence of this sudden change of routine, a quantity of through cargo destined for Ahwaz and Shuster is now detained at Mohammerah.

In order to justify Messrs. Lynch's complaint I need only refer your Excellency to the Memorandum delivered by Sir H. D. Wolff on the 14th February, 1890, to his Highness the Grand Vizier, then the Amin-es-Sultan, embodying the promises given by his Highness simultaneously with the delivery of the document by which His Imperial Majesty the late Shah was graciously pleased to signify his acceptance of the steam-ship "Shusan" offered him by Messrs. Lynch.

The present contention of the new Customs Administration at Mohammerah as reported to me would seem to be distinctly opposed to the above, and I feel sure that the Imperial Government will issue such orders as may be necessary to do justice to Messrs. Lynch's claim and to continue to facilitate in every way the through traffic from Mohammerah up the Karun.

I have, &c.

(Signed) C. DES GRAZ.

Inclosure 5 in No. 106.

Mr. des Graz to Mushir-ed-Dowleh.

M. le Ministre,

Tehran, October 12, 1902.

IN my note of the 4th instant I had the honour to call your Excellency's attention to Messrs. Lynch Brothers' complaint that the new Customs Administration at Mohammerah now demand that duty on all cargo destined for places above Mohammerah be paid at Mohammerah, and I referred your Excellency to a Memorandum delivered by Sir H. D. Wolff on the 14th February, 1890, to his Highness the Grand Vizier.

I have now received a telegram from my Government instructing me to call your Excellency's attention to the following telegram which was sent on the 29th May, 1891, by his Highness the Amin-es-Sultan to the Governor of Arabestan:—

"Issue instructions that the ships of Lynch, carrying goods belonging to

foreigners and natives, shall pay customs dues at destination, either at Mohammerah, Ahwaz, or Shuster. The Custom-house officials must act accordingly and levy dues on arrival at destination."

I have the honour, under instructions from my Government, to request that the necessary orders may be issued by the Persian Government to the Customs authorities at Mohammerah to continue to observe the arrangement recorded in the above-quoted telegram pending a fresh Agreement on the subject between the two Governments.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. DES GRAZ.

No. 107.

Mr. des Graz to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received November 3.)

(No. 140.)

My Lord,

Tehran, October 11, 1902.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 137 of the 8th instant, I have the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship a copy of a note received from the Minister for Foreign Affairs in answer to that which I had addressed to his Excellency, in compliance with the instructions contained in your Lordship's telegram of the 17th September, asking for an official copy of the arrangement respecting the recent change in the Customs Administration at Mohammerah.

Your Lordship will observe that the Mushir-ed-Dowleh takes exception to the use of the word "agreement" used in my note as improperly describing the orders given by the Shah to the Sheikh of Mohammerah, and further expresses his surprise at, and seems inclined to deny, the assurances given by him to Mr. Spring Rice, as reported in the latter's despatch No. 27 of the 5th April, 1900.

I venture to hope that my reply to his Excellency will meet with your Lordship's approval. The assurances in question were set down verbatim in your Lordship's despatch No. 2 of the 6th January, and were read by the Shah, who at that time authorized the Grand Vizier to inform His Majesty's Minister (as reported in the latter's despatch No. 26 of the 16th February) that he had carefully read the translation of your Lordship's despatch, and to make a verbal communication on its contents to Sir A. Hardinge.

I can only express the opinion that the Mushir-ed-Dowleh's language with reference to the use of the word "Agreement" is as disingenuous as his attempt to back out of the assurances he gave Mr. Spring Rice.

It is more than probable that he is actuated by the desire—so marked a trait in his character—of avoiding even a semblance of responsibility in matters of moment.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CHARLES DES GRAZ.

Inclosure 1 in No. 107.

Mushir-ed-Dowleh to Mr. des Graz.

October 7, 1902.

IN answer to your letter dated of 12 Jemad 2, 1320, I have to inform you that I am extremely astonished at the substance of it, because what you say, viz., that an Agreement (Garardad) had been made between the Government of Persia and the Sheikh of Mohammerah with regard to establishing a custom-house there is a cause of great astonishment, because you yourself, if you will give attention (to the matter), will agree that the Persian Government has no need of Agreements (*i.e.*, does not require to make Agreements) with its Governors and officials, of whom Sheikh Ghazal Khan, Maiz-es-Sultaneh is one; the order of the Government to all the provinces and their Governors is one and binding (literally obeyed). Distance or nearness to the centre does not make a difference in the execution of the order.

There has not been an order (or matter) to render such a communication necessary,

and if they (or you) expect an explanatory answer to the two first points of this letter, you (or they) must wait until the return of the Shah and suite.

But as regards the third point, I am much surprised if Mr. Spring Rice made such a communication from what I said (or from my promise), and should have mentioned such a promise on my part. Perhaps, as he did not rightly understand Persian, he made a mistake.

Inclosure 2 in No. 107.

Mr. des Graz to Mushir-ed-Dowleh.

M. le Ministre,

Tehran, October 11, 1902.

IN reply to the note addressed to me by your Excellency on the 7th instant, I can only regret that your Excellency should have taken exception to, and have made deductions from, the use of the word "Agreement" as used in my note of the 17th September, in connection with the then recently reported change of the Customs Administration at Mohammerah.

I feel convinced, however, that your Excellency will agree with me that the question cannot be regarded as turning on the interpretation of that word, but as a matter bound up with the wide and friendly interests common to both countries.

It was on account of those interests, well known to and recognized by the Persian Government, that I addressed my note of the 17th September to your Excellency under instructions, and I shall be glad to be favoured, at your convenience, with the reply of the Persian Government.

As regards the concluding portion of your Excellency's note, I will ask your Excellency's permission to point out that the assurances referred to in it have already been put on record officially in the same terms, as part of a communication from His Majesty's Government laid before His Imperial Majesty the Shah, who was graciously pleased to cause a verbal communication in acknowledgment to be made by his Highness the Grand Vizier to His Majesty's Minister, at which time, as far as I am aware, no exception to or criticism of the statements in question was made by your Excellency or the Persian Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CHARLES DES GRAZ.

No. 108.

Mr. des Graz to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received November 3.)

(No. 141.)

My Lord,

Tehran, October 12, 1902.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith a copy of the note which I addressed to his Excellency the Mushir-ed-Dowleh on receipt of your Lordship's telegrams Nos. 47 and 48 of the 4th instant, on the subject of the Perso-Afghan boundary question.

In view of my request for an early reply to my note, his Excellency promised to telegraph to His Majesty the Shah on the subject.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CHARLES DES GRAZ.

Inclosure in No. 108.

Mr. des Graz to Mushir-ed-Dowleh.

M. le Ministre,

Tehran, October 7, 1902.

I HAVE the honour to inform your Excellency, with reference to your note of the 22nd July last, and subsequent correspondence on the subject of the recent occurrences on the Perso-Afghan frontier, that I am in receipt of a telegram stating that the Government of India propose very shortly to appoint an Arbitrator, who will be accompanied by a Surveyor, an Intelligence Officer, and by an Irrigation Engineer, to advise on technical points connected with changes in the course of the Helmund and with the irrigation channels.

It is proposed that this Commission should, if possible, proceed in about a month's time, accompanied by a suitable escort, by way of Nushki and Chageh to Kilanau, on the Helmund, and thence to Seistan.

I am in the meantime instructed by His Majesty's Government to inquire of the Persian Government whether, as in 1871, they agree to the award of the Arbitrator, if not accepted, being referred for final decision to His Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.

I shall be glad to be favoured with an early reply from your Excellency, for communication to the Marquess of Lansdowne, and avail, &c.

(Signed) CHARLES DES GRAZ.

No. 109.

Mr. des Graz to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received November 3.)

(No. 142.)

My Lord,

Tehran, October 12, 1902.

ON receipt of your Lordship's telegram of the 17th September, I used my best endeavours to learn any further details with regard to the ship purchased by His Majesty the Shah.

Very little seems to be known on the subject here beyond the fact that it was bought in Holland.

It is difficult even to ascertain under what Department it will be placed, as there is no Ministry of Marine, but I have been informed from a good source that the Grand Vizier will give all orders concerning the ship, and I have asked Mr. Erskine to bear the matter in mind when His Highness returns to Tehran, so as to carry out your Lordship's instructions, if he hears the question of the choice of her officers being discussed. It does not even appear to be known if the ship has left Holland.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CHARLES DES GRAZ.

No. 110.

Mr. des Graz to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received November 3.)

(No. 13. Consular.)

My Lord,

Tehran, October 11, 1902.

THE intention has for some time been ascribed to the Russian Government of still further increasing their Consular representation in the South of Persia.

M. Termeulen, a Dutch subject, who was in business in Ahwaz formerly and has latterly been in Messrs. Dunlop's employ in Tehran, told me a few days ago, in the course of conversation, that he had been appointed Russian Consular Agent for Arabistan on a salary of about 250*l*. He told me that he was accepting the appointment with the hope of securing other agencies, and I have no doubt that the creation of this post is partly in connection with the Russian line of steamers from Odessa to the Persian Gulf.

I heard from a friend in the Persian Foreign Office this week that the Russian Legation has just made the necessary application on M. Termeulen's behalf to the Mushir-ed-Dowleh, who had promised to send the necessary orders to the Governor of Arabistan to recognize M. Termeulen in the capacity of Russian Consular Agent.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CHARLES DES GRAZ.

No. 111.

Mr. Erskine to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received November 3.)

(No. 145.)

My Lord,

Tehran, October 14, 1902.

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship that His Majesty the Shah arrived at Astara, on the Persian frontier, on the 1st instant.

According to present arrangements, His Majesty is expected to reach Tehran about the 27th instant.

In spite of the many rumours circulated here during the summer as to possible hostile action on the part of the clergy and the enemies of the Atabeg-i-Azam, it does not appear likely that anything will occur to mar His Majesty's peaceful entry into his capital.

I learn from a reliable source that the Imam Juma of Tehran has been negotiating with the principal Mujtahids to induce them to make overtures for a reconciliation with the Shah and Grand Vizier.

I have also been informed that a large sum of money, averaging about 150 tomans per head, has been sent by the Atabeg for distribution among the leading members of the clergy.

Although the latter appear to be holding back, no doubt with a view to enhancing the value of their good-will, I have little doubt that these measures will prove successful, and that, at all events for the moment, mercenary considerations will prevail.

I have, &c.
(Signed) WILLIAM A. F. ERSKINE.

No. 112.

Mr. Erskine to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received November 3.)

(No. 147.)

My Lord,

Tehran, October 14, 1902.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith the usual monthly summary of events in Persia.

I have, &c.
(Signed) WILLIAM A. F. ERSKINE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 112.

Monthly Summary of Events in Persia not reported in separate Despatches.

Tehran.

SINCE the 20th September the new 5-kran pieces, said to have been coined in Russia, have been circulating in the bazaars in gradually increasing quantities. A ring, however, has been formed by the "Sarraf" to keep down the value of these coins to 4 ks. 10 sh., or 4 ks. 15 sh., i.e., 10 to 5 per cent. under their face value.

The news of the Shah's arrival at Astara was made known the same day in Tehran by salutes fired. The bazaars were illuminated at night.

A system of postal and telegraphic money orders will shortly be inaugurated for the interior of Persia.

On the night of the 24th September, Agha Sheikh Hadi, a very remarkable Mujtahid, of Tehran, died, aged about 70. He enjoyed a widespread reputation for sanctity and probity, despite the fact that more than twenty years ago he was denounced as a "Kafir," and even as a Babi by other leading Mujtahid of Tehran, who were jealous of his influence. He lived in the utmost simplicity, and received, though he never returned, the visits of the highest personages.

Rumours have been current in the bazaars as to the arrest and imprisonment of one of the leading Persian Ministers in the Shah's suite.

Resht.

A disastrous fire broke out on the 17th instant destroying five caravanserais and about a thousand shops, together with much valuable merchandize.

Bushire.

Seyyid Yusuf Mehrkani, a partisan of the rebel Sheikh Mōhammad Towasmi, lately Deputy-Governor of Lingah, has arrived from the Arab Coast, at Dowan, on the Persian side, and has given out that he intends to come to Lingah to live there, and that if he is prevented from doing so he will create disturbances in the surrounding districts. The Deputy-Governor of Lingah is taking precautionary measures.

[1565]

It is reported that Sheikh Mohammad-bin-Khalifah, the rebel Deputy-Governor of Lingah, who was turned out by the Darya Begi, has arrived from the Arab Coast at the port of Berkah Soflah, on the Persian side.

Mohammerah.

Sirdar Arfa is arranging for a sailing vessel at the mouth of the river to go to the bar and back, and for two bellams to patrol from the mouth of the Bahmanshir to the mouth of the Shat-el-Arab during the date export season.

Sirdar Arfa is building a new bazaar at Mohammerah, and is encouraging the replacing of mud buildings by brick ones.

The Shusier-Dizful Road is reported unsafe, and also the Dizful-Khoremabad Road, which is practically closed.

Meshed.

The Askabad news-writer reports that there is considerable military activity at that place.

He states that 3,000 infantry and 1,000 cavalry were recently dispatched from there to the frontier, and that he heard a Russian officer say to another that the number of troops in Transcaspia and Russian Turkestan was going to be raised from 70,000 to 100,000 men. The talk of a Russian war with Afghanistan is, he says, being revived, and he personally is evidently under the impression that the Russians contemplate a move of some kind.

Captain Smyth has returned from Transcaspia and Russian Turkestan. He visited Tashkend, Chargui, and Askabad, and attended some manoeuvres which were taking place at Ak-Tepe, a place about 16 miles from Askabad.

It is probable that the 4,000 men reported by the Askabad news-writer to have been dispatched to the frontier were merely proceeding to take part in these manoeuvres.

A force of 9 battalions of infantry, 2 regiments of Cossacks, and 4 batteries of artillery had been assembled for the manoeuvres. The total strength of the force was about 8,000 men.

Captain Smyth, who attended them on four consecutive days, was much struck by the physique and steady bearing of the troops, and the accurate way in which divisional field firing was carried out.

He reports that he was treated with marked politeness wherever he went by all classes of Russian officials, and that he had a most enjoyable trip. He heard of no movements of troops towards the Afghan frontier, but says that from the tone of the remarks let drop while he was in Tashkend, the Russians generally were convinced that they would shortly have direct relations with Afghanistan.

The Russian papers in Askabad say that Colonel Beresford, the British Military Attaché in St. Petersburg, is expected shortly in Transcaspia, and that orders have been given that he is to be afforded every facility during his visit.

Two Russian Engineers, with an interpreter, have passed through Meshed *en route* for Yezd.

Lieutenant Haslam, R.I., who lately arrived at Meshed from Moscow, reports that he observed no signs of military activity between Baku and Askabad.

The Karez Agent reports that the Deputy Governor of Bakharz has been informed by the Russian officer at Karez that a Belgian Customs officer is in future to be stationed at Karez.

Herat.

The Ameer is said to have ordered that for every eight men one soldier is to be contributed from every village.

The Herat authorities, in obedience to orders from the Ameer, have prohibited the exportation of sheep, cattle, and food-stuffs from the Herat Province. Prices are very high at Herat, and these orders were given with a view to prevent a further rise.

Meshed (continued).

The career of the notorious M. Cesari in the Persian Customs appears to have come to an ignominious end. He has been virtually convicted of embezzling 2,500*l.* of Persian Customs money, and has been advised by M. Castaigne to leave Khorassan. The respon-

sibility for this affair may fairly be said to rest with M. Castaigne, who has been repeatedly warned against him by his Belgian subordinates.

M. Cesari, who is a French subject, is considered by Colonel Whyte to have acted as an amateur secret agent for the Russians. He has taken every opportunity of spreading false reports as to our intentions.

M. Lobansky has left for Russia. It is reported that his visit is connected with an organized effort on the part of the Russians to push their trade in Seistan. It is said at Meshed that on M. Lobansky's return from St. Petersburg a number of Russian merchants will leave for Seistan.

Seistan.

It is reported that the Akhunzada of Chikansur has been ordered to visit Koh Malik Siah, and to erect a post (probably for Customs) in its vicinity. Our caravans from Quetta have recently been taking a short cut across the Zirreh route, and it is no doubt to interrupt their traffic that the Afghan Government wish to establish a Customs post.

It is reported that a Russian Mohammedan merchant, who has been in Seistan for some time buying skins, is expecting a caravan of merchandize, and proposes starting business there. It is said that four or five other Russian merchants are following him from Sarrahks.

On the 13th August four Afghans brought a letter to the Russian Consul from the Akhunzada of Chikansur. The letter is said to have been in reply to one from Mr. Miller about the scarcity of water. Mr. Miller tried to induce the messengers to take some presents to the Akhunzada, but they evaded the request.

With regard to the water famine in Seistan, Major Benn, as the result of a personal visit to the Helmund, has come to the following conclusions:—

That Chikansur is suffering from the drought equally with, if not more than Seistan; that the present drought is due to the abnormal dryness of the past year and to natural causes; that no channel appears to have been dug by the Afghans "close to and above the Seistan bund," so as to denude Seistan of water; and that the reports as to the crops in Seistan having been ruined are exaggerated.

On the 15th September news reached Major Benn that the Helmund had risen, and that the water had reached the Seistan bund.

M. Maurice, the new Director of Customs, reached Seistan on the 29th August.

Major Benn reports very favourably on him, and states that he seems genuinely anxious to study our interests from an impartial and fair point of view.

M. D'Hoedt proposes starting on his tour to the Sarhad and the coast on the 1st November.

Mr. Ferguson, of the Imperial Bank of Persia, who was returning to Meshed from England, met M. Molitor between Meshed and Askabad. M. Molitor informed him that the Seistan Customs had been worked at a great loss. The receipts during the Persian year 1318-1319 were about 1,600*l.*, and the expenses exceeded 3,000*l.*

M. Molitor said that he had repeatedly written to M. Castaigne, protesting against what seemed to him a useless expenditure, but that no attention was paid to his remonstrances. On the contrary, two additional European officers, MM. Cesari and D'Hoedt, were sent to him, of whose services he had no need.

Shiraz.

Robberies near Shiraz have much increased lately, but in most cases the robbers have been caught and punished.

The Persian post has twice been robbed lately, the robbers in both cases being Kashgaris.

The Kawan-ul-Mulk left on the 19th September for Bushire, *en route* for Kerbela.

A notice has been posted on the doors of the mosques that the Shua-es-Sultaneh is Governor of Shiraz, and will soon come to relieve the distress.

(Signed) WILLIAM A. F. ERSKINE.

Tehran, October 14, 1902.

Inclosure 2 in No. 112.

Notes on Russian Military Movements in Transcaspia for the Week ending September 6, 1902.

THE following information has been furnished by news-writers:—

August 14.—39 waggon loads of supplies were dispatched from Krasnovodsk in the direction of Askabad.

August 15.—14 infantry left Krasnovodsk for Askabad. 5 infantry left Krasnovodsk for Russia.

August 16.—245 boxes of ammunition were received from Russia at Krasnovodsk and dispatched towards Askabad.

August 17.—250 waggon loads of supplies were dispatched from Krasnovodsk to Tashkend.

August 19.—10 waggon loads of supplies were dispatched from Krasnovodsk to Askabad.

August 26.—250 infantry passed through Askabad in direction of Merv. By night an entire train of 32 waggons passed through Askabad in direction of Merv; 24 of the waggons were carrying 600 infantry and the remainder contained Government stores.

August 27.—350 infantry passed through Askabad in direction of Merv. By night train 14 waggons carrying Cossacks passed through Askabad in direction of Merv.

(Signed) J. F. WHYTE, Lieutenant-Colonel,
His Britannic Majesty's Acting Consul-General.

Meshed, September 6, 1902.

Inclosure 3 in No. 112.

Notes on Russian Military Movements in Transcaspia for the Week ending September 13, 1902.

THE following information has been furnished by news-writers:—

August 21.—41 waggon loads of supplies were dispatched towards Askabad from Krasnovodsk. 6 infantry left Krasnovodsk for Russia.

August 22.—8 infantry left Krasnovodsk for Askabad.

August 24.—30 waggon loads of supplies, 30 boxes of ammunition, and 3 boxes of rifles were dispatched from Krasnovodsk towards Askabad.

August 27.—11 infantry left Krasnovodsk for Russia.

(Signed) J. F. WHYTE, Lieutenant-Colonel,
His Britannic Majesty's Acting Consul-General.

Meshed, September 13, 1902.

Inclosure 4 in No. 112.

Notes on Russian Military Movements in Transcaspia for the Week ending September 20, 1902.

THE following information has been furnished by news-writers:—

August 28.—250 time-expired infantry left Krasnovodsk for Russia. 27 waggon loads of supplies were dispatched from Krasnovodsk in direction of Askabad.

August 29.—108 infantry left Krasnovodsk for Russia. 37 waggon loads of supplies were dispatched from Krasnovodsk to Askabad.

August 30.—180 infantry belonging to the Krasnovodsk garrison left Krasnovodsk for Russia. 23 waggon loads of supplies were dispatched from Krasnovodsk to Askabad. 4 waggons full of infantry passed through Askabad in direction of Krasnovodsk. 12 waggons full of infantry and 7 waggons containing railway material passed through Askabad in direction of Merv.

August 31.—18 infantry left Krasnovodsk for Russia. 21 waggon loads of supplies were dispatched from Krasnovodsk to Askabad. An entire train of 26 waggons said to contain Government stores passed through Askabad in direction of Merv.

September 1.—3 waggons containing Government stores, 8 waggons full of Cossacks, and 11 waggons containing tents passed through Askabad in direction of Merv. By night train 20 waggons containing Government stores and 16 waggons carrying infantry passed through Askabad in direction of Merv.

September 2.—60 infantry left Krasnovodsk for Russia. 71 waggon loads of supplies were dispatched from Krasnovodsk in direction of Askabad. 16 waggon loads of dried provisions passed through Askabad in direction of Merv. 450 infantry left by the train of which these waggons formed part for some place in direction of Merv.

September 3.—7 infantry and 11 Cossacks left Krasnovodsk for Russia. 16 waggon loads of supplies and 5 waggon loads of ammunition were dispatched from Krasnovodsk in direction of Askabad. 400 infantry left Askabad for some place in direction of Merv. By night train, 10 waggons railway material, 4 waggons artillery ammunition, 2 waggons provisions, 40 artillery officers and 100 soldiers passed through Askabad in direction of Merv. 7 waggons containing 200 infantry were attached to this train at Askabad.

September 5.—3 waggon loads of Government stores passed through Askabad in direction of Merv.

September 6.—8 waggons full of Cossacks arrived at Askabad from Bokhara.

September 7.—By night train 19 waggons full of Cossacks and artillery passed through Askabad in direction of Merv.

(Signed) J. F. WHYTE, Lieutenant-Colonel,
His Britannic Majesty's Acting Consul-General.

Meshed, September 20, 1902.

Inclosure 5 in No. 112.

Notes on Russian Military Movements in Transcaspia for the Week ending September 27, 1902.

THE following information has been furnished by news-writers:—

September 4.—39 infantry and 4 Cossacks left Krasnovodsk for Russia. 112 waggon loads of supplies were dispatched from Krasnovodsk in direction of Askabad.

September 5.—18 infantry left Krasnovodsk for Russia. 11 Cossacks and 6 infantry left Krasnovodsk for Askabad.

September 8.—51 infantry and 10 Cossacks left Krasnovodsk for Russia. 57 waggon loads of supplies were dispatched from Krasnovodsk to Askabad.

September 10.—62 infantry left Krasnovodsk for Russia. 45 waggon loads of supplies were dispatched from Krasnovodsk to Askabad.

A "Kavkaz and Mercury" steamer has arrived at Krasnovodsk laden with ammunition.

(Signed) J. F. WHYTE, Lieutenant-Colonel,
His Britannic Majesty's Acting Consul-General.

Meshed, September 27, 1902.

No. 113.

Mr. Erskine to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received November 3.)

(No. 148.)

My Lord,

Tehran, October 14, 1902.

WITH reference to Mr. des Graz' despatch No. 140 of the 11th instant relative to the recent change in the Customs Administration at Mohammerah, I have the honour to transmit herewith a translation of a further note from his Excellency the Mushir-ed-Dowleh in reply to Mr. des Graz' note of the 11th instant.

It is evident from his Excellency's note that nothing can be done in the matter until the return of the Shah and Grand Vizier to Tehran.

I have, &c.

(Signed) WILLIAM A. F. ERSKINE.

Inclosure in No. 113.

Memorandum from Mushir-ed-Dowleh, dated October 13, 1902.

THE Yad-dasht of the British Legation *re* Mohammerah Customs, dated the 11th October, has been received.

Just as I am sure that the Persian Government will in no circumstance injure the friendly conditions between the two Governments, so you, too, must have (show) no doubt that if the Persian Government sets up a system in one point within its territory such as is current in other parts also, it will not be at variance with the current interests, and in accordance with your request also, after the return of the Royal party, I will not fail to give a more explicit answer. In regard, however, to two portions of a letter which you set forth as a proof, it is necessary that I should mention that I have no knowledge of those two portions of a letter, and as in your former letter you attributed* to the conversation of a former Chargé d'Affaires with me, therefore I mentioned in my answer of 7th October what is certain, and I am not aware of anything else that I can say.

No. 114.

The Earl of Cromer to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received November 3.)

(No. 89. Commercial.)

My Lord,

Cairo, October 21, 1902.

WITH reference to your Lordship's telegram No. 7, Commercial, of the 17th instant, I have the honour to report that, in the event of its communication to them, the Egyptian Government have been warned not to take any steps implying their acceptance of the Customs arrangement concluded between Turkey and Persia without previous consultation with myself.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CROMER.

No. 115.

The Earl of Cromer to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received November 3.)

(No. 91. Commercial.)

My Lord,

Cairo, October 21, 1902.

WITH reference to your Lordship's telegram No. 8, Commercial, of the 22nd instant respecting Turkish and Persian Customs Treaties, I have the honour to transmit herewith a copy, together with a translation, of the Circular letter of the Turkish Government, dated the 1st March, 1871.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CROMER.

Inclosure in No. 115.

Circular dated 8 Zil-Heggé, 1287 (March 1, 1871).

(Traduction.)

D'APRÈS l'Article II du Traité conclu entre la Perse et l'Empire Ottoman, les marchandises du commerce Persan, une fois les droits de douane de 4 pour cent acquittés, ne doivent pas être soumises à un second droit, à moins d'avoir été transférées d'un propriétaire à un autre.

En outre, l'Article VII du Traité conclu en 1263 dispose que le Gouvernement Persan doit observer une parfaite réciprocité envers les sujets et les négociants Ottomans voyageant dans ses États.

Ainsi, les produits du sol ou de l'industrie de la Perse, importés dans l'Empire Ottoman acquittaient, jusqu'ici, les droits de douane, à raison de 4 pour cent et étaient

* The grammar is faulty in this passage; the meaning appears to be, "you referred to" or "relied upon" as an argument.—G. G.

introduits moyennant *teskéré*; quand ces articles passaient ultérieurement d'une main à une autre, ils devenaient susceptibles d'un droit additionnel de 2 pour cent, perçus de l'acheteur.

A l'effet de connaître quel était le traitement appliqué à cet égard en Perse, des informations ont été demandées au Chargé d'Affaires de Turquie à Téhéran. Il résulte de sa réponse adressée à la Sublime Porte, dont communication m'a été faite par lettre du Grand Vizirat du 18 Ragab, 1287, que les produits de l'Empire Ottoman seraient assujettis en Perse, au moment de leur introduction, au droit de 4 pour cent, et que les douanes Persanes réclameraient en même temps au propriétaire, qu'il eût trouvé acheteur ou non, le droit additionnel de 2 pour cent. En d'autres termes ces douanes ne permettraient l'introduction des dites marchandises que contre la perception, en une seule fois, de 6 pour cent.

En conséquence, il y aurait lieu de traiter dorénavant les importations Persanes en conformité de l'Article VII précité, c'est-à-dire leur appliquer la réciprocité de traitement, en suivant le même système en Perse. Mais, des pourparlers ayant été entamés avec le Chargé d'Affaires de Perse à Constantinople, à qui communication a été donnée de la réponse susindiquée, il lui a été expliqué que si le mode de traitement des produits Ottomans mentionné dans cette réponse, était réellement appliqué, il ne pouvait naturellement soulever aucune objection, au cas où un système analogue était adopté en Turquie à l'égard des importations Persanes. Le Chargé d'Affaires de la Perse ayant déclaré ignorer les formalités suivies par la Perse à l'égard des marchandises Ottomanes, a voulu demander des renseignements à ce sujet à Téhéran; il ajouta, qu'en attendant, on pouvait percevoir sur les produits de la Perse, au moment de leur introduction en Turquie, des droits de douane à raison de 4 pour cent, et exiger du propriétaire de la marchandise, à titre de dépôt,* le 2 pour cent représentant les droits additionnels; que, dans le cas où les investigations faites à Téhéran ne donneraient pas un résultat conforme aux renseignements fournis par le Chargé d'Affaires de Turquie dans la même ville, ce dépôt serait restitué aux intéressés; autrement, il serait passé aux recettes. Il a été décidé, en outre, que, pour que personne ne s'opposât au versement de ce dépôt, l'Ambassade de Perse à Constantinople adresserait dès maintenant à tous les Consuls et Agents Consulaires de Perse, en Turquie, des instructions à cet égard.

Vu ce qui précède, il y a lieu d'agir dorénavant en conformité de cette décision; ainsi les produits du sol et de l'industrie de la Perse, importés en Turquie, devront acquitter aux douanes, à leur arrivée, 4 pour cent ainsi que le droit additionnel de 2 pour cent, et ne pourront être livrées aux intéressés qu'après la perception de ces deux droits à la fois.

Si l'importateur trouve immédiatement un acheteur, le droit de 2 pour cent acquitté ne devant plus être restitué plus tard, sera passé aux recettes. Dans le cas contraire, l'importateur devra acquitter à la fois les deux droits de 4 et 2 pour cent. Ce dernier droit étant susceptible d'un remboursement éventuel, en conformité de la décision qui sera communiquée ultérieurement à mon Administration, devra être passé en dépôt et inscrit comme tel sur les registres.

Vous aurez soin également d'inscrire sur les récépissés les détails ci-dessus énoncés.

Quant aux marchandises Persanes qui ont déjà acquittés 4 pour cent seulement, comme droit de douane, elles devront également, lors de leur transport d'une douane à une autre par *teskéré*, acquitter le droit de 2 pour cent à la douane d'entrée, et ce droit, passé aux recettes, faire l'objet d'annotations en conséquence sur le registre.

Je vous envoie, ci-joint . . . exemplaires de cette Circulaire, en vous priant de la communiquer à toutes les douanes relevant de votre Nazaret pour en appliquer la teneur.

No. 116.

Mr. C. Hardinge to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received November 3.)

(No. 338.)

My Lord,

St. Petersburg, October 26, 1902.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship an extract from the "Journal de St. Pétersbourg" of to-day, announcing that the Russian Mint is about to strike a certain quantity of silver coins which have been ordered by the Persian Government.

* Par Circulaire adressée par l'Administration des Contributions Indirectes de l'Empire Ottoman à Constantinople, en date du 6 Gamad Awel, 1285 (24 Juillet, 1871), *sub* No. 1680 au Gouvernorat d'Alexandrie, il a été décidé de percevoir définitivement un droit de 6 pour cent, sur tous les effets et objets Persans venant de la Perse.

From Mr. des Graz' despatch No. 138, Confidential, of the 8th instant, I gather that a considerable number of Persian coins struck in Russia are already in circulation in Tehran.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CHARLES HARDINGE.

Inclosure in No. 116.

Extract from the "Journal de St. Pétersbourg," 13 (26) Octobre, 1902.

L'HÔTEL des Monnaies de St. Pétersbourg procédera prochainement à la frappe d'une certaine quantité de monnaies d'argent Persanes, commandées par le Gouvernement du Shah.

No. 117.

Sir N. O'Connor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received November 3.)

(No. 473.)

My Lord.

Therapia, October 25, 1902.

I HAD the honour last night, in my telegram No. 109, to report to your Lordship the substance of my interview with the Sultan on the subject of the Aden frontier delimitation, and I now beg leave to make some further complementary remarks.

Since receiving the Sultan's message on the 18th instant, stating that within twenty-four hours a favourable answer would be sent to me in regard to this question, I failed to extract any information either from the Palace or the Porte, nor did I receive any reply to the request I made to Tewfik Pasha on the 20th for an audience to lay the matter before the Sultan. I therefore informed his Excellency that I proposed to attend the Selamluk on Friday, the 24th, and expected to be received after the ceremony. Upon this I got urgent messages from the Grand Vizier, the Minister for Foreign Affairs, and the Sultan's First Secretary begging me not to insist upon an audience, as the Aden question would, without fail, be considered by the Council of Ministers on the 26th and an answer given to me next day. There was no new indication, however, of the nature of the answer, or whether it would be favourable or unfavourable. I therefore decided, in obedience to the instructions contained in your Lordship's telegram No. 104 of the 10th instant, to ignore these communications and to attend the Selamluk on Friday.

The reception room, in the kiosque overlooking the Mosque where the religious ceremony takes place was crowded with visitors, some of them connected with the Corps Diplomatique and others with the Administration of the Ottoman Bank and Anatolian Railway.

On the Sultan's return to the Palace an Aide-de-camp informed the German Ambassador that His Majesty would receive all the visitors "en cercle." Upon learning this from my German colleague it struck me at once that the Sultan was seeking for some means to avoid seeing me alone. I expressed my surprise to Baron von Marshall at this strange deviation from the usual etiquette, and after a few minutes' reflection M. von Marshall said that it was quite irregular, that he would point this out to the Master of the Ceremonies, and that if the Sultan insisted he would refuse to attend. I readily concurred, and after a short delay the Sultan sent word that he would receive the two Ambassadors alone and separately in the usual way.

I was received by His Majesty immediately after the German Ambassador.

The Sultan, after a few preliminary remarks about my recent visit to Smyrna, said that the arrears due to Messrs. Armstrong on account of the cruiser under construction for his Government would be paid for the Customs loan conversion, and that, to insure the regularity of the remaining payments, he had ordered them to be paid out of the tax levied for war materials. He wanted, besides, two or three smaller ships for coast service, and he would order them from Messrs. Armstrong.

I thanked His Majesty for his promise that the arrears due to Messrs. Armstrong would be promptly paid, but I said that it was not on this matter that I had asked for the honour of an audience to-day.

I then proceeded to say that I had received instructions from your Lordship to speak to His Majesty on a much more serious and important question, namely, the Aden frontier delimitation, and I asked leave briefly to recount the history of the negotiations

during the last twelve months, which would show His Majesty that, as the question had practically come to a deadlock, owing to the non-fulfilment of the promises made by the Porte, it was necessary to appeal to the supreme Arbiter and to his high intelligence and equitable sentiments in order that the matter should be settled in a friendly manner and without the danger of a conflict. His Majesty listened patiently for a few minutes and then began to interrupt the interpreter, so that it was with great difficulty that I succeeded in relating the main points.

When I had finished the Sultan said that he had no knowledge of the assurances given to me by his Government; that he was not sufficiently acquainted with the case to discuss the details, but that he had ordered his Ministers to consider the question in the Council of Ministers on Sunday, and that he would give me an answer on Monday. He was most anxious to settle the question in a friendly way, and to maintain the best relations with England; but, on the other hand, he could not give up any of his rights without exposing himself to great unpopularity and severe criticism. England was so great, and her territory so extensive, that a small district, such as was now in dispute, did not matter to her, and he earnestly appealed to the generosity of His Majesty's Government not to drive him too hard. After all, this territory was of little account to England, and of a great deal to him, as it involved the preservation of the integrity of his Empire.

The places occupied have been for years in Turkish possession, and their abandonment now would be difficult and painful to him personally. He therefore hoped and expected I would not press him. In any case, I was harder on him than I had been with his Ministers, with whom I had been negotiating for months. He promised me that the question would be submitted to the Council of Ministers two days hence, and that he would give me an answer on the following day.

I said that I was sorry to importune His Majesty or question his words, but that, as a matter of fact, it was the integrity of territory apparently belonging to Chieftains under British protection that was being violated; that Suhub, Mafari, Jebel Jehaf, and Lakmat-es-Saleh, which were the four places repeatedly mentioned in my representations to the Porte, had been occupied since the Delimitation Commission was proposed; that no Delimitation Commission could proceed with its work if one or other of the parties occupied places by force in the disputed territory, and that the object of the Commission was to inquire into the right of ownership and define the frontier accordingly.

His Majesty frequently interrupted me by saying again and again that he could not discuss details, and then entered into a long account of the question, showing that he was fully acquainted with all that had taken place, though leaving me rather under the impression that he had been told that the occupation of Suhub and other posts was of ancient date.

I said that I did not wish to worry or annoy His Majesty by any further remarks, and that it only remained for me to say that His Majesty's Government felt bound to insist upon the delimitation of the frontier north-eastwards from the Dhali Plateau to the desert and the withdrawal of the Ottoman troops from disputed territory pending full inquiries as to the right of ownership. I believed that the best chance of a friendly settlement lay in placing these demands to-day clearly and definitely before His Majesty, and I was confident that His Majesty's friendly feelings, as well as his great political sagacity, would convince him that it was to the interest of both Governments to have a defined and recognized frontier which would in the future prevent all danger of conflict between two such friendly Powers.

His Majesty then rose, and as he did so again assured me that he would send me an answer on Monday.

I called at the Porte this afternoon to impress upon the Minister and Grand Vizier the importance of not leaving the Sultan in doubt as to the recent occupation of the four military stations in the Amiri territory.

I did not, however, find either His Highness or the Minister at the Porte, but I learned from the Secretary that they had been summoned to the Palace in connection with the Aden frontier question, in order to study the question before the meeting of the Council of Ministers to-morrow.

I have, &c.
(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

No. 118.

Sir N. O'Connor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received November 3.)

(No. 474.)

My Lord,

Therapia, October 28, 1902.

I HAVE the honour to report that, in accordance with the permission granted in your Lordship's telegram No. 122 of the 24th instant, Mr. Fitzmaurice left here on the 25th instant *en route* for Alexandria and Aden, and was instructed by me to arrive at his destination as quickly as possible.

I have no doubt that his success and long experience in dealing with Ottoman officials will be of great assistance to the British Delegates on the Aden Frontier Commission.

I have, &c.
(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

No. 119.

Sir N. O'Connor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received November 3.)

(No. 478.)

My Lord,

Therapia, October 29, 1902.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 452 of the 19th instant, and to your Lordship's telegrams No. 120 and No. 127 of the 23rd and 28th instant respectively, I have the honour to report that the following account of the actual condition of the question at issue between the Italian and Ottoman Governments in connection with the recent piratical attack upon Dhalah is supplied to me by the Porte and the Italian Embassy.

Some of the guilty parties have been apprehended, and will be punished by the Ottoman authorities, and the Porte is prepared to pay the small indemnity fixed.

They have not, however, yet admitted the contention of the Italian Government that sambouks from Massowah are entitled to fly the Italian flag, nor have they consented to return the fees and fines levied, as the Italians assert illegally, on such sambouks; the amount in question is very small, but the Porte declines to concede the point of principle at stake.

On Saturday, the 25th instant, the Porte telegraphed to their Ambassador in Rome instructing him to ask for further delay—the time mentioned in the Italian Commander's ultimatum expires to-day—and informing him that four battalions have been sent to capture the pirates and guilty persons at Midi, and urging that it has been materially impossible for them to fulfil their promise and execute the demands of the Italian Commander within the time allowed. The Porte have also begged the Italian Embassy here to support their request in Rome, but the Italian Government have not yet made any reply.

If no further delay is granted, the Italian war-ships are to bombard Midi and punish the pirates themselves.

The incident would thus seem to be by no means yet closed.

I have, &c.
(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

No. 120.

Sir R. Rodd to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received November 3.)

(No. 215.)

My Lord,

Rome, October 29, 1902.

THE Minister for Foreign Affairs informed me this afternoon that he had received no news for some days from the Senior Naval Officer of the Italian squadron in the Red Sea, engaged in dealing with the pirates from Arabia. The last report of proceedings which he had received was to the effect that the representations made by Captain Arnone to the authorities in the Yemen, demanding their co-operation in arresting the guilty parties, and exacting compensation, had at first met with a refusal.

It therefore became necessary to menace severe reprisals. This course had the desired effect. The conditions made and accepted were the arrest and exemplary punishment of the individuals proved to have been engaged in acts of piracy, and the surrender of those among them who were renegade Italian (Eritrean) subjects, the destruction of all the boats in the pirate centres, and the restoration of the property seized, or, where that was impossible, the payment of its equivalent in money.

The 29th instant was fixed as the date by which these measures were to be carried out.

M. Prinetti stated that the Turkish Government had strongly resented the course he had been compelled to take, and that he understood that a note was being addressed to the Powers, protesting against the conduct of Italy. He was anxious, therefore, that it should be clearly understood that he had only proceeded to coercive measures after having repeatedly, and in vain, urged the Turkish Government to carry out their own responsibilities, and restrain their subjects from committing acts of depredation on the territory of a foreign Power.

When remonstrance had failed, the local authorities had been invited to co-operate, and accompany the Italian squadron on a punitive mission.

Upon their refusal he had no option but to take the course which had been adopted.

I have, &c.
(Signed) RENNELL RODD.

No. 121.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received November 3.)

Sir,

India Office, October 31, 1902.

WITH reference to your letter of the 12th ultimo, relative to the proceedings on M. Goguyer in Muscat, I am directed by Lord George Hamilton to request you to lay before Lord Lansdowne the inclosed copy of a further Secret letter from the Government of India, dated the 2nd October last, and inclosures, on the subject.

The present letter appears to have crossed the Secretary of State's despatch of the 19th September, a copy of which was forwarded to the Foreign Office on the same date.

It will be seen from the present correspondence that Major Cox is disposed to think, notwithstanding M. Laronce's views, that M. Goguyer is being supported by the French Government.

I am, &c.
(Signed) A. GODLEY.

Inclosure 1 in No. 121.

Government of India to Lord G. Hamilton.

My Lord,

Simla, October 2, 1902.

IN continuation of our Secret despatch dated the 7th August, 1902, regarding the proceedings of M. Goguyer at Muscat, we have the honour to forward copies of the further communications which Major Cox has addressed to us on the same subject.

2. We trust that instructions may be sent to us at an early date as to the attitude which the Sultan should be advised to adopt in this matter. In our view, M. Goguyer should be expelled, and the sooner this step is taken the better.

We have, &c.
(Signed) CURZON.
A. P. PALMER.
T. RALEIGH.
E. R. ELLES.
A. T. ARUNDEL.
DENZIL IBBETSON.
E. FG. LAW.

Inclosure 2 in No. 121.

*Major Cox to Government of India.**Muscat, September 20, 1902.*

I HAVE the honour to submit a further report on the subject of M. Goguyer in continuation of my letter dated the 9th July last.

2. I mentioned in paragraph 5 of the letter that I had suggested to M. Laronce that it was of no use his saying anything to Goguyer in the way of threat or warning, unless he was in a position to expel him if he ignored it, and had asked him not to do so as far as I was concerned.

On my return from Sindia, however, he informed me that he had since been specifically ordered to give M. Goguyer a warning, and had done so; but that the man had simply defied him, and had replied that M. Laronce might be a very exalted person, but that he (Goguyer) was a free man, and should write exactly what, when, and whither he liked.

M. Laronce went on to say that during my absence he had had a talk with the Sultan, and had told His Highness that, if he would give him something official to go upon, he undertook to do his best to get rid of Goguyer, and that the Sultan had promised to try and find some newspaper article which would serve the purpose. His Highness is prepared to address an official complaint now that he is sure of M. Laronce's *bona fides*, but at the time in question he had nothing sufficiently patent and tangible to go upon officially. Since then a manuscript in M. Goguyer's writing has fallen into his hands through one of his clerks, which will possibly serve M. Laronce's purpose, but which I am, *prima facie*, inclined to think has been purposely allowed to fall into the Sultan's hands by Goguyer for other reasons.

I shall report regarding this later if anything results. At present His Highness is awaiting an opportunity of asking M. Laronce's opinion on the document unofficially before he takes any action, and my colleague is just now seriously ill and not likely to be able to transact business for some little time.

3. Within the last few days a further incident has occurred regarding Goguyer which also calls for report.

He wrote to M. Laronce stating that he had received from the Odessa Shipping Company (owners of the "Korniloff," "Truvor," &c.), for which he is agent, some Russian commercial flags (presumably the Company's flag), and notified to him that he intended to hoist one over his house and also over his boat. M. Laronce consulted me informally as to the local usage, and subsequently ascertained the views of the Sultan, and in the result wrote to M. Goguyer officially interdicting him from flying the flag in question. My colleague told me confidentially in this connection that he knew M. Goguyer was trying to get made Consular Agent for Russia in Muscat.

I do not think anything is likely to come of this, because I am sure the Sultan would refuse to recognize him, and certainly no Consul here would receive him as a colleague; nevertheless, I venture to inclose, for information, copy of a letter addressed by me to the Resident on the 10th instant, reporting the intention expressed by the Russian Consul at Bushire to visit Muscat, in case the visit in question may be contemplated with a view to furthering M. Goguyer's aims.

4. I believe M. Laronce to be thoroughly in earnest now and anxious to get rid of M. Goguyer on his own account; but, on the other hand, the French Government seems to be giving the man all possible support, and during my absence in India addressed the Sultan, through M. Laronce, a most peremptory letter regarding a suit which is going on between M. Goguyer and one of his Arab partners in the arms trade, the tone of which seems to me quite unwarranted by the circumstances, and was probably only designed for the sake of picking a quarrel with the Sultan or frightening him for other purposes. This letter His Highness has only just shown me.

It is difficult to understand the French Government's giving the man this strenuous support after their Ambassador's candid admissions regarding his character and antecedents, unless his Russian connection enters into the question, in which case the importance of effecting his expulsion from Muscat is much increased.

I trust, therefore, His Majesty's Government may be urged not to lose sight of the matter.

Inclosure 3 in No. 121.

*Major Cox to Lieutenant-Colonel Kemball.**Muscat, September 10, 1902.*

WITH reference to the political diary for the week ended the 8th July, 1902, in which mention is made of the arrival here of a Russian, under the auspices of a letter of introduction to the Sultan from the Russian Consul at Bushire, I have the honour to report that His Highness lately received a letter from that Consul intimating, in profuse terms, his gratitude to the Sultan for the kindness which His Highness extended to the Russian subject during his stay here, and expressing the lively hope that he will soon find an opportunity of tendering his thanks personally to His Highness at Muscat.

2. I request the favour of your informing me in advance should you hear that the Russian Consul is making serious preparations to pay his proposed visit to Muscat.

Inclosure 4 in No. 121.

Major Cox to Government of India.

(Telegraphic.)

Muscat, September 27, 1902.

GOGUYER is arranging to bring from Algiers at the end of October two adult sons and one nephew to assist him in his operations. His deportation consequently becomes more than ever desirable.

No. 122.

Sir N. O'Connor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received November 3.)

(No. 117.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Constantinople, November 3, 1902.

MURDER of Sheikh Selman, Bahrein. My telegram No. 110 of the 25th ultimo.

I am now informed by the Porte that the Turkish troops have attacked the tribe who committed the murder and killed twenty of them. The Minister of the Interior has telegraphed for further details, as it is not yet known whether the actual murderers were amongst those killed.

No. 123.

Mr. Erskine to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received November 3.)

(No. 67.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Tehran, November 3, 1902.

MOHAMMERAH customs.

My telegram No. 62 of the 23rd October.

I have just been informed by the Acting Administrator-General of Customs that he has received the Grand Vizier's instructions to arrange the matter in accordance with my request.

Subject to the condition that Lynch's agents declare the value and themselves collect the duty in order to avoid delay, he will send orders that all cargo destined for Ahwaz, &c., which has arrived at Mohammerah previous to this date, is to be allowed to proceed to destination unopened, and that a customs employé is to be sent up with it on the steamer to receive the duty.

I have telegraphed in this sense to Lynch's agent at Bussorah.

No. 124.

Mushir-ed-Dowleh to Mohammed Ali Khan.—(Communicated by Mohammed Ali Khan, November 3, 1902.)

(Translation.)

(Telegraphic.)

YOU are aware that it is about two years since the system of farming out the revenue of the Imperial Customs has been abolished, and, in accordance with the usage prevailing among all nations, Customs registers have been instituted at the ports and at the frontiers, and inland custom-houses have been done away with altogether. It is more than a month since a Customs register has been opened also at Mohammerah as at other ports, and inland custom-houses, such as existed at Ahvaz, Shuster, and Dezful, have been abolished. Prior to the institution of a Customs register at Mohammerah, the goods of Persian subjects imported and exported by the Karun were taxed at their destinations, such as Ahvaz or Shuster. For that reason, some seven or eight years ago, his Highness the Atabeg-i-Azam, at the request of the British Legation, sent telegraphic instructions to the Government of Arabestan, requesting them to tax Messrs. Lynch Brothers' goods at their destination, as was done in the case of Persian subjects. And now that a Customs register has been instituted at Mohammerah, Messrs. Lynch Brothers wish to be treated in the same way as formerly, whereas then inland custom-houses existed everywhere, and Customs stamps had not been introduced. If instructions had been issued, it was out of consideration for Messrs. Lynch Brothers, and with a view of giving them the same treatment as the Persians received in that district. Now that both Persian and foreign subjects are taxed equally at the frontier, Messrs. Lynch Brothers have no longer a right to that exception. Should they be excepted, other merchants, too, who enter their goods at other ports and frontiers will say that, as our goods are destined for Tehran, we must pay duty in Tehran, and this is impossible. Discuss this matter at length with the British Foreign Office, and explain fully the insistence of the British Legation in Messrs. Lynch Brothers' proposal, and the inability of the Government in acceding to this request.

No. 125.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir N. O'Connor.

(No. 136.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

RED SEA pirates.

Foreign Office, November 3, 1902.

In communication made by Turkish Chargé d'Affaires of the 1st November, he states that Italian commander began bombardment of Midiz on the 31st October, although all Italian conditions had been accepted by the Turkish Government. Most of them had been executed, and every effort was being made to carry out the remainder. Italians were preventing Turkish ships from leaving harbour; all inhabitants had gone and Turkish troops alone remained. This proceeding was considered by Turkish Government as a flagrant violation of Treaties and international usage, and contrary to the assurances which M. Prinetti had given, and could not be regarded by them as otherwise than an act of hostility. This state of things was calculated to affect integrity of empire, and they asked for His Majesty's Government's good offices to put an end to it.

In reply I have stated that I was convinced that the sole object of the Italian Government, who had informed His Majesty's Government of special purpose of naval demonstration, was to obtain redress for piratical acts, and that until I had full knowledge of the circumstances I was unable to express an opinion as to the expediency of the measures adopted.

No. 125 A.

The Euphrates and Tigris Steam Navigation Company to Foreign Office.—(Received November 4.)

*3, Salter's Hall Court, Cannon Street, London,
November 3, 1902.*

Sir,

WITH reference to the establishment of the Belgian Customs Administration at Mohammerah and to previous correspondence on the subject (our despatch of the 7th ultimo, yours of the 10th, ours of the 15th, yours of the 17th), I have now the honour to communicate to you the text of a telegram received from our agents on the Karun, under date the 25th ultimo, received here on the first of this month:—

"Belgian Customs stopped transhipment cargo Mohammerah on the 23rd October by force. Many witnesses. Claim made."

As this arbitrary action on the part of the Customs authorities violates engagements of old standing entered into by the Persian Government, and hitherto faithfully observed, I am instructed respectfully to request that a telegram be sent to His Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at Tehran desiring him to arrange that telegraphic instructions be dispatched by the Central Government to the authorities at Mohammerah, instructing them to let our cargo pass, and at the same time to apprise His Majesty's Vice-Consul at Mohammerah by telegraph of the transmission of such orders, if obtained, in order that the Vice-Consul may satisfy the Legation that they are being promptly carried out.

I have, &c.

(Signed) FRANK BOTTOMLEY,
Acting Secretary.

No. 125 B.

Memorandum respecting the Arrangement for Collection of Customs on the Karun River.

ON the 7th October last the Euphrates and Tigris Company complained that the arrangement made in 1851 by which the customs duties on the cargoes of their steamers on the Karun were collected at the ports of destination, Ahwaz or Shuster, had been upset by the new Belgian Customs authorities, who insisted on all cargoes being landed at Mohammerah and duty being paid there.

Mr. des Graz was instructed by telegraph to insist on the observance of the existing arrangement pending a fresh Agreement between the two Governments.

Three telegrams have since been received from the Legation, in the last of which (No. 67 of the 3rd November) Mr. Erskine reports that the Grand Vizier has agreed to a temporary arrangement, suggested by Mr. Erskine, according to which the cargoes are to be sent up unopened to the ports of destination, where the Company's agents are to collect the duties themselves for the Persian Customs.

The telegram from the Mushir-ed-Dowleh communicated by the Persian Minister states the reasons for which it is desired in future to collect the duties at Mohammerah.

Messrs. Lynch's arguments in favour of the collection of duties at the ports of destination are stated in their letters of the 7th and 15th October. In the first they point out that the arrangement was made to facilitate the flow of through traffic into Persia, and state that that traffic would be seriously dislocated by the system now proposed. In their letter of the 15th October they state that the old arrangement formed one of the conditions upon which they decided to continue the navigation of the Karun River, and to hand over the steamer "Shushan" to the Persian Government; that it was not of a provisional nature; and that it would not be possible for them to carry on the navigation of the Karun if the duties on goods in transit were collected at Mohammerah.

The promise of the Persian Government to allow the collection of duties at the ports of destination was conveyed verbally to Sir H. Wolff by the Amin-es-Sultan (now the Atabeg-i-Azam), and was recorded in a Memorandum by Sir H. Wolff, which he delivered to the Amin-es-Sultan at the same time as the latter handed him a note by which the Shah accepted the "Shushan" (see Sir H. Wolff's despatch No. 50 of the 15th February, 1890). No written acknowledgment of the promise was given by the Amin-es-Sultan.

Mr. Kennedy, Chargé d'Affaires at Tehran, in his telegram No. 112 of the 30th May, 1891, repeated a telegram sent by the Amin-es-Sultan to the Governor of Arabistan, giving instructions for the duties on the cargoes of the Euphrates and Tigris Company to be levied at the ports of destination. In the telegram just communicated by the Persian Minister these instructions are erroneously stated to have been sent "some seven or eight years ago."

In the telegram from the Mushir-ed-Dowleh it is stated that the Company were allowed to pay the duties at the ports of destination in order that they might be on the same footing as Persian subjects. Nothing is said about this in the despatches from Tehran.

Foreign Office, November 4, 1902.

(Signed) G. F. FAIRHOLME.

No. 126.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir R. Rodd.

(No. 43.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Foreign Office, November 3, 1902.

BOMBARDMENT of Midiz.

In my immediately preceding telegram I repeated to you my telegram to Sir N. O'Connor No. 136 of to-day's date.

Communicate substance to Italian Government.

No. 127.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received November 4.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Lord George Hamilton, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of inclosures in a letter from the Foreign Secretary, Simla, dated the 16th October, relative to the Perso-Afghan boundary dispute.

Seistan Diary, No. 11, for the period 1st to 15th September last.

Meshed Diary, No. 36, for the week ending 13th September last.

Copies of the Meshed and Seistan Diaries have been sent to the Intelligence Division, War Office.

India Office, November 3, 1902.

Inclosure 1 in No. 127.

Government of India to the Ameer of Afghanistan.

My valued and esteemed Friend,

Simla, October 3, 1902.

I DESIRE to remind your Highness that on the 31st July last, two months ago, I wrote to your Highness about the urgent importance of the dispatch of a British officer to arbitrate in the matter of the disputes that have arisen between the Persians and Afghans as to the boundary between Persia and Afghanistan in Seistan, which was fixed by General Goldsmid thirty years ago. The Persian Government, in accordance with Treaty stipulations, have called upon the British Government to settle the dispute, and the case is also one which your Highness' Government is bound by Agreement to refer to the British Government. The matter is one of great urgency, if quarrels and conflicts between the Persians and Afghans are to be avoided. I may add that the Russian Government have addressed the Government in England on the subject, and the British officer whom I propose to appoint as Arbitrator ought to proceed to Seistan in a few weeks, as soon as the cold weather begins, if, as is very desirable, the arbitration is to be completed without any undue delay. I, therefore, asked your Highness for a very early reply, and I am much surprised that you should have allowed so long a period to elapse without sending me an answer. Apart from the discourtesy to myself which the delay implies, I must point out to your Highness that, where disputes with foreign Governments are concerned, the interests of Afghanistan, which I earnestly desire to protect, are likely to be seriously injured and compromised by neglect to deal promptly with the opportunities offered for their settlement. I desire, therefore, to urge upon your Highness the need for your speedy consent to the deputation of a British officer to Seistan. I would suggest that this officer, accompanied by a small military escort, should travel by the same route as that taken, with the consent of your Highness' father, by the Boundary Commission in 1884, viz., from Nushki via Chageh to Khwaja Ali or Kila Nao on the Helmund and thence down the river to the Bund-i-Seistan and Chakansur.

I would also suggest, for your Highness' consideration, that the same arrangement should be made as was agreed to in the case of General Goldsmid's arbitration in 1871, viz., that the decision of the officer appointed as Arbitrator should be referred to the Persian and Afghan Governments, and that if either Government objects to the Award, it should be forwarded to the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs in England, whose

decision should be final and binding on both Parties. I have suggested that the Persian Government should be asked to agree to this arrangement, and I ask your Highness to agree to it also.

I desire to take this opportunity to remind your Highness that I have also received no replies to the two important letters that I addressed to your Highness on the 6th and 17th June last, although more than three months have elapsed since they were written. The first of these letters related to my invitation to your Highness to meet me at Peshawar this autumn, and the second dealt with the important question of the importation of arms into Afghanistan. I feel much surprise that your Highness should have neglected for so long to reply to these letters, for they are concerned with matters of the highest interest to your country and its future welfare, and such prolonged delay is capable of unfavourable interpretation. It will, I regret to say, no longer be possible for me to meet your Highness in October as I originally proposed, since I leave Simla in a few weeks on a tour in Rajputana and Central India. But I am still anxious, in the interests of yourself and of Afghanistan, that we should have an opportunity before long of meeting each other, and of discussing in a friendly spirit the future relations between your Government and the Government of India.

Inclosure 2 in No. 127.

Major Benn to Government of India.

(Confidential.)

Seistan, September 20, 1902.

WITH reference to Seistan Confidential Diary No. 11 for the period 1st to 15th September, 1902 (paragraph 7), I have the honour to submit the following Report regarding the condition of the Helmund River from the Band-i-Kamal Khan to the Band-i-Seistan at Kohak.

2. A rough map of the river between these two points is also attached. Both the report and the map have been compiled from native information brought to me by a reliable Agent whom I had sent to Kila-i-Fath for this purpose.

3. At point A on the map—about 8 miles north of the Band-i-Kamal Khan—is the main irrigation channel of Kila-i-Fath (called Naobar-i-Kila-i-Fath). The dam at point A is generally constructed so as to extend only half-way across the river bed, thus allowing the main stream to continue its course northwards. In normal years the Naobar-i-Kila-i-Fath being lower than the bed of the main stream, the water finds its way naturally to the town of Kila-i-Fath. Just at present this channel is dry, its bed having become higher than that of the main stream on account of an accumulation of sand which has been blown into it.

The main stream of the Helmund is said of late years to have changed its course and taken a sweep to the west, leaving the city of Kila-i-Fath, once on its banks, some 8 miles to the east. At the present moment Kila-i-Fath is said to be entirely cut off from the Helmund water, and my informant reports that he, like the rest of the inhabitants, drank well water during his recent visit.

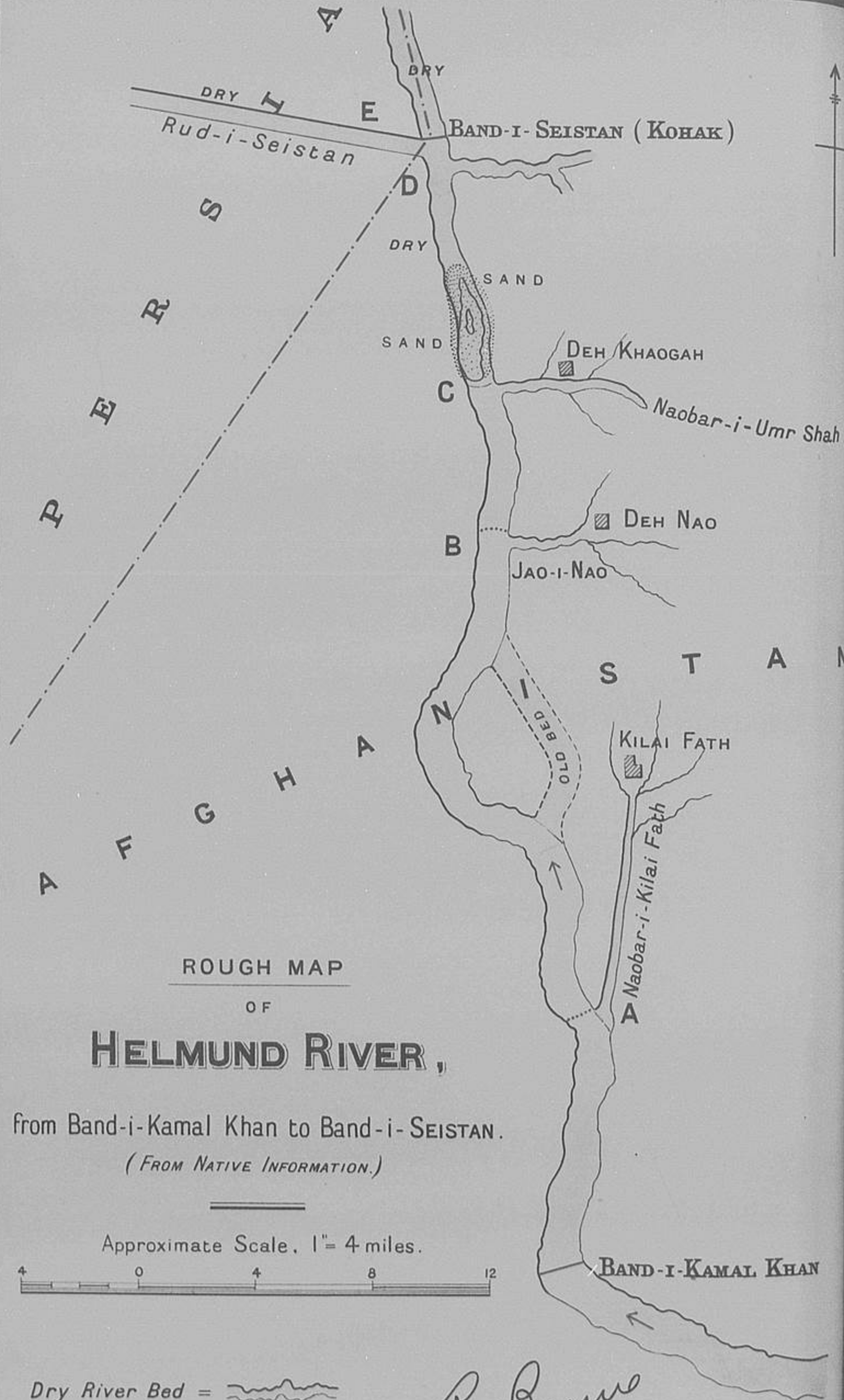
4. At point B a new water channel, the Jao-i-Nao, has recently been constructed by the new Governor of Kila-i-Fath, Ayub Khan. The old channel which branched off from this point having become filled with sand from disuse, the new Governor is said to have re-aligned it and had the present channel dug. At this point B, also, there are the remains of an old dam which the new Governor now intends repairing and making permanent.

Materials for the dam—stakes, brambles, and stones—were being collected at this spot when my Agent passed. Only the orders of the Governor, who was absent in Chakansur on business, were awaited to commence the work. Only a small quantity of water is now said to reach Deh Nao, a new village also built by the Governor of Kila-i-Fath.

5. From point B my informant travelled along the banks and bed of the Helmund as far as the Seistan Bund.

As far as point C on the map may be found water about 3 feet deep. At point C the Umr Shah channel branches off to Deh Khaogah. This channel has recently been deepened, and the water is said to run freely to Deh Khaogah, 2 miles from the river. There is no dam at point C; but just beyond this point a natural barrier of sand has formed in the river bed which extends for a considerable distance to the north, and successfully obstructs the passage of the water beyond that point.

No serious effort appears to have been made to clear away this barrier, although it



H.B.M.

MAJOR

H.B.M. Vice-Consul. Seistan & Kain.

Seistan, 19.9.02.

is said that the Afghans have more than once invited the Seistan Government to send labourers to help their own men in this work.

It is alleged that Sardar Purdil Khan and his son-in-law, the Deputy Governor, knowing that the advent of the water would be the signal for local prices to fall, are anxious to dispose of the large quantities of grain which they have collected at the high rates of purchase now prevailing before they will permit the water to reach Seistan. When I asked the Deputy Governor and Sardar Purdil Khan if the barrier of sand at point C could not be removed by manual labour, they replied that the task was a super-human one.

6. At point D is an old water channel about 130 yards above the Seistan Bund, which, when there is water in the Helmund, irrigates the Afghan lands to the east. It has not been deepened or worked on during the present drought. This is the channel referred to in my telegram dated the 30th August last, which, it was alleged, has been used by the Afghans to convey water to Chakansur.

7. At point E is the Band-i-Seistan, recently repaired and now ready to receive the Helmund water when it comes. A small party of Seistani troops are stationed at the bund, as the Local Government fear that the Afghans may try to burn it, the material of which it is made being only brushwood, at present in a very dry condition.

The Rud-i-Seistan is said to have been cleared of sand and other obstacles, and it is stated that the water could reach the city in a few hours after reaching the Seistan Bund.

8. From the above account we may conclude—

(1.) That water exists in the Helmund only as far as the Naobar-i-Umr Shah (point C on the map).

(2.) That the statement made to me by the Russian Consul and reported in paragraph 7 of my Diary No. 11, to the effect that the construction of a new dam at Kila-i-Fath by the Afghans was the direct cause of the present drought, is not borne out by the latest information on the subject. My informant, when questioned on this point, repeatedly denied the existence of any dam at Kila-i-Fath.

(3.) That the present scarcity is due to natural causes: firstly, to the drying up of the Helmund, and then to the formation during this period of dryness of a natural barrier of sand which now, on the rising of the Helmund, blocks the passage of the water to the Seistan Bund. Against the Afghans it can, perhaps, only be said that, by deepening certain water channels on the east bank of the Helmund, they caused a premature cessation of the water-supply of Seistan, which in any case would appear to have been inevitable.

Inclosure 3 in No. 127.

Rough Map of Helmund River.

Inclosure 4 in No. 127.

Mr. des Graz to Government of India.

(Telegraphic.)

Tehran, October 6, 1902.

SOME time ago, in answer to our inquiries, the Minister for Foreign Affairs and the Minister for War informed me and Military Attaché, respectively, that the Karaye regiment, some 500 or 600 strong, with 100 sowars, would be sent to relieve the Kain regiment, which was to be recalled from Seistan on account of inefficiency. On receipt of the telegram, dated the 1st October, from His Britannic Majesty's Consul-General at Meshed, I again brought the matter to the notice of the Minister for Foreign Affairs in a private letter, deprecating an increase to the number of Persian troops in Seistan at this moment. His Excellency promised an early reply. I am endeavouring to ascertain the truth of the rumoured dispatch to Seistan of the Kerman regiment. This telegram has been repeated to His Britannic Majesty's Consul-General for Khorassan and Seistan.

Inclosure 5 in No. 127.

Mr. des Graz to Government of India.

Tehran, October 10, 1902.

I HAVE received the following from His Britannic Majesty's Consul at Kerman:—

"The Persian troops here have no idea whatever of movement in the direction of Seistan. If they move in the direction of Baluchistan, it is the customary relief."

Inclosure 6 in No. 127.

Government of India to Lieutenant-Colonel Whyte.

(Telegraphic.)

Simla, October 11, 1902.

PLEASE refer to your telegram of the 7th October. Mr. des Graz has a positive assurance that no troops are being sent from Kerman to Seistan, and Major Phillo t says there is no idea at Kerman of any such intention. Mr. des Graz is trying to induce the Minister of War to recall the Kain regiment simultaneously with the arrival of the 600 men under dispatch from Meshed.

Inclosure 7 in No. 127.

Extract from Diary No. 11 of Major Benn, for period from September 1 to September 15, 1902.

(Confidential.)

I FIND M. Maurice quite the most reasonable Belgian official who has yet come to Seistan, and he certainly seems inclined to study our interests and to regard the situation in Seistan from a fair and impartial point of view. At present he seems to have sufficient strength of will to resist any hostile influence the Russian Consul may bring to bear on him.

7. During an interview with the Yamin-i-Nizam on the 5th September he told me that he had received orders to report whether the information that had been received by the Persian Government as to the Afghans having destroyed a bund and dug channels so as to denude the Miankangi district and Seistan of water was true. The Yamin told me that he had replied that the reports were false and the present scarcity was due to natural causes only. He added that "some one" must have submitted a very exaggerated account of the situation.

No information that I have yet received has corroborated the report that the present drought is the result of the Afghans having destroyed a bund or dug channels from the Helmund. Since April last (*vide* paragraph 6 of my report, dated the 4th July last, forwarded to the Government of India with my letter of the same date), the Afghans, as far as my information goes, have not been guilty of any encroachments along that portion of the river below the Seistan Bund which forms the Goldsmid boundary between Seistan and Afghan territory. Above and to the south of the Seistan Bund they appear to have repaired or constructed several bunds and to have dug channels (*vide* my telegram to the Government of India, dated the 17th August). Their having done so may possibly have accelerated the advent of the drought in Seistan; it can scarcely be said to have been the direct cause of it. Owing to the drying up of the Helmund, the drought was in any way inevitable, and this view of the situation appears to be accepted by all local officials in Seistan.

In this connection, however, M. Miller, during a recent visit I paid him, remarked to me that the present scarcity was due to the conduct of the Afghans. He stated that never before this year had a bund existed at Kila-i-Fath. He implied that it had been specially constructed this year to catch the reduced flow of water in the Helmund. My information does not quite tally with this; for I was informed that the Kila-i-Fath Bund was only repaired (as is done every year) by the new Governor of Kila-i-Fath. An Agent has been sent to Kila-i-Fath to collect all possible information on this subject.

News has reached here to-day (15th September) that the Helmund has risen and that the water has reached the Seistan Bund. The report is generally believed to be true. If this is so, the spring harvest ought to be assured.

9. The report that the Russian Consul is about to leave Seistan is still current here, and it is said that a junior officer is to succeed him. On the other hand, it is also said that owing to Captain Plunkett's arrival here M. Miller will remain with the junior officer as his assistant.

(Signed) R. A. E. BENN, Major,
His Britannic Majesty's Vice-Consul, Seistan and Kain.

Inclosure 8 in No. 127.

Meshed Confidential Diary No. 36, for the Week ending September 13, 1902.

(Confidential.)

THE statement of the Ashkabad news-writer, reported in last week's Diary, to the effect that 4,000 troops had left Ashkabad for the frontier is, I think, incorrect. I have heard from Captain Smyth from Ashkabad. He says that General Subotitch was away, but that he called on Colonel von Pfahler, who was acting as Political Secretary, and that the latter had said that the General would be present at some manœuvres which are about to take place at some distance from Ashkabad. Colonel von Pfahler added that he would ask General Subotitch to allow Captain Smyth to come and call on him in camp, and to see some of the manœuvres. It is not unlikely, then, that the 4,000 troops, whose departure from Ashkabad the news-writer reports, have really left for the manœuvres. Mr. Ferguson tells me of some further revelations made to him by M. Molitor when they met between Ashkabad and Meshed. M. Molitor said that the Seistan Customs had been worked at great loss. The receipts during the Persian year 1318-19 were about 8,000 tomans,* and the expenses exceeded 15,000 tomans.† M. Molitor said that he had repeatedly written to M. Castaigne protesting against what seemed to him useless expenditure, but that no attention was paid to his remonstrances. On the contrary, two additional European officers—M. Cesari and M. d'Hooedt—were sent to him, of whose services he had no need. M. Cesari in particular, who was a special protégé of M. Castaigne, was not only of no use to him, but was positively a thorn in his side. He was unable to explain why the unnecessarily heavy expenditure he referred to was incurred. This is only one of many circumstances connected with the manner in which the Belgians work the Customs in this part of Persia which are difficult of explanation. At the present moment there are three European officers to supervise the Customs south of Meshed, while north of Meshed there is not a single European officer to supervise and check the work of the native subordinates who are in charge of the Customs establishments through which the very heavy import and export trade between Khorassan and Russia passes. As the value of the trade to the north is infinitely higher than the value of the trade to the south, it would seem to the unprejudiced mind that the northern trade would better repay the trouble of carefully watching than the southern trade would.

M. Sobansky has left for Russia. It is reported that his visit is connected with an organized effort on the part of the Russians to push their trade in Seistan. It is said here that, on M. Sobansky's return from St. Petersburg, a number of Russian merchants will leave for Seistan.

(Signed) J. F. WHYTE, Lieutenant-Colonel,
His Britannic Majesty's Acting Consul-General.

Meshed, September 13, 1902.

* About 1,500*l*.

† About 3,000*l*.

Sir N. O'Connor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received November 4.)

(No. 118.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Constantinople, November 3, 1902.

THE Ottoman Government, besides applying to foreign Governments through their Representatives in Europe, are also appealing to Embassies here for good offices in Italian difficulty in the Red Sea.

They say that the Italians fired on Midi during Friday and Saturday, and that the population have fled. They fear that the Turkish soldiers, who have apparently been sent to capture the pirates, and who are camped near Midi, may be hit, and that grave results may ensue. They complain of the divergency between the action of the Naval Commander and the assurances of the Italian Foreign Minister.

I replied that, until certain pending cases were settled, I could not be the channel for any form of appeal to His Majesty's Government.

According to Porte's own account, four of the Powers have answered evasively, but the Ottoman Ambassador in Berlin was told by the German Foreign Minister that he would take steps in Rome to "mettre un terme à la situation," and that the German Ambassador would be instructed to use his good offices on behalf of the Turkish Government.

No. 129.

Sir N. O'Connor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received November 4.)

(No. 119.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Constantinople, November 3, 1902.

ADEN frontier.

My telegram No. 115 of the 1st November.

Following is Porte's note of the 1st November: I would venture to suggest that the exact text should be furnished to the British Commissioners as soon as possible.

(For Porte's note, see Inclosure in Sir N. R. O'Connor's despatch No. 490 of the 4th November.)

No. 130.

Sir R. Rodd to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received November 4.)

(No. 69.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Rome, November 4, 1902.

WITH reference to your telegram No. 43 of yesterday:

I communicated substance of your telegram No. 42, in absence of Minister for Foreign Affairs, to Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, who informed me, while expressing great satisfaction at the reply given to the Turkish Chargé d'Affaires, that a communication had been addressed to the Powers by the Turkish Government, giving an entirely erroneous version of the facts, of which the Italian Government had just received a full report to the following effect:—About the 24th ultimo the Italian squadron proceeded, together with their armed dhows, to Midi, where pirates were concentrated, conveying thither a Colonel with detachment of troops, who were landed to watch the town from the land side.

A Turkish civil official also accompanied the squadron. The Italian dhows were attacked by the pirate boats as soon as the surrender of the pirates was demanded.

Two sailors were killed and another wounded, but the pirates were repulsed.

The troops remained inert, or were not able to do anything from the land against the town. The Italian Commander then threatened, unless the pirates were surrendered and an indemnity paid to the families of the sailors who had been killed, to bombard the village.

The local authorities having refused these conditions, he opened fire on the village. The conditions were then at once accepted, but time was asked to carry

No. 130*.

The Earl of Cromer to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received November 4.)

(No. 18. Commercial.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Cairo, November 4, 1902.

YOUR Lordship's telegrams Nos. 9 and 10, Commercial, of the 30th and 31st ultimo.

I beg to express my regret at having overlooked Lord Salisbury's despatch of July 1890. I have now taken the opinion of the Principal Law Officer of the Egyptian Government. I learn from him that the theory of commercial independence put forward by the English Law Officers—viz., that only such Turkish Treaties as were concluded prior to 1873 are applicable to this country—has always been maintained by the Egyptian Government. It follows from this that any new Treaty made between Turkey and Persia is not applicable to Egypt. It must, however, be remembered that this theory is not accepted by other Powers, notably by France and Germany.

On the other hand, were the admission made that, in such a case, the former Treaty continued valid as against Egypt, Egyptian interests would be detrimentally affected. According to the view entertained here, if the old Treaty is no longer in force in Turkey, it has also ceased to operate as regards Egypt. At the present time, therefore, the position of Persia and Egypt in this respect is that, save as regards tombac, no Customs arrangement exists between them, and each of the two countries is at liberty to decide on the treatment which it will extend to the other.

them out. He remains lying off Midi and has consented to wait till the 11th instant for the fulfilment of engagements.

I was further informed by the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs that the engagements of Turkey had been accepted by the Minister for Foreign Affairs, but the *fait accompli*, and not the mere promise, was contemplated by his acceptance.

Although it was stated by the Turkish Government that some pirates had been surrendered already, only one of the accused had, as a matter of fact, been surrendered, the other two persons handed over being his father and his servant.

No. 131.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir N. O'Connor.

(No. 138.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Foreign Office, November 4, 1902.

A LETTER has been received from the Admiralty inquiring whether the "Harrier" may now leave Hodeidah. I should be glad to have your opinion.

In view of the trouble in Somaliland, Commander-in-chief, East Indies Station, proposes to make Aden his head-quarters for the present, and towards the end of this month he should arrive there.

No. 132.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir N. O'Connor.

(No. 328.)

Sir,

Foreign Office, November 4, 1902.

I HAVE received your Excellency's despatch No. 461 of the 21st instant relative to the capture of pirate boats by a Turkish gun-boat in the Red Sea.

I approve of your having urged the Turkish Government to order these vessels to be burnt.

I am, &c.
(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

No. 133.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir N. O'Connor.

(No. 329.)

Sir,

Foreign Office, November 4, 1902.

I HAVE received your Excellency's despatch No. 463 of the 21st instant, informing me that you had applied for an audience with the Sultan in connection with the delimitation of the Aden frontier, and reporting the language which you held to the Grand Vizier and the Minister for Foreign Affairs in regard to this question.

Your proceedings in the matter are approved by His Majesty's Government.

I am, &c.
(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

No. 134.

Admiralty to Foreign Office.—(Received November 5.)

(Confidential.)

Sir,

Admiralty, November 1, 1902.

WITH reference to the letter from this Department dated the 26th July last and to your letter in reply of the 1st August, concurring in copy of certain papers relating to the possible occupation of certain points in the Persian Gulf being furnished to the Commander-in-chief, East Indies, I am commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to request you will represent to the Marquess of Lansdowne that in 1900 telegraphic instructions were prepared for the Senior Naval Officer in the Gulf, which he was to act on in the event of any Russian encroachment taking place (*vide* Foreign Office letter of the 14th February, 1900).

2. As Lord Lansdowne is aware, the rumoured intentions of Russia were not

fulfilled; the telegram to the Senior Naval Officer was, therefore, by verbal arrangement, never sent. Subsequent documents, however, notably Foreign Office letter to India Office of the 13th May last, and Sir T. Sanderson's Memorandum of the 14th July last (both of which were included in the copy of papers sent to the Commander-in-chief), referred to the instructions as being absolutely in the possession of the Senior Naval Officer, and consequently the above-mentioned documents are misleading on that point to the Commander-in-chief.

3. My Lords would be glad to be informed whether Lord Lansdowne considers it desirable that the Senior Naval Officer should now be furnished with the original instructions for his guidance in any future possible contingency, or whether the position shall be merely explained to the Commander-in-chief. I am to add that when the telegram was withheld, the fact does not appear to have been officially communicated to the Foreign Office—a circumstance my Lords much regret.

I am, &c.
(Signed) EVAN MACGREGOR.

No. 135.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received November 5.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Lord George Hamilton, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of inclosures in a letter from the Foreign Secretary, Simla, dated the 2nd October, relative to the arms traffic at Jibuti.

Copy has been sent to the Intelligence Division, War Office,

India Office, November 3, 1902.

Inclosure 1 in No. 135.

Government of Bombay to Government of India.

(Confidential.)

Sir,

Bombay Castle, September 26, 1902.

I AM directed to forward herewith, for information of the Government of India, copy of a letter, dated the 7th instant, from the Political Resident, Aden, regarding the traffic in arms at Jibuti.

2. I am to state that Colonel Wahab's Secret letter, dated the 30th August last, which is referred to in paragraph 4 of Colonel Abud's present letter, was addressed to you direct by Colonel Wahab.

I have, &c.
(Signed) S. W. EDGERLEY,
Acting Chief Secretary to the Government, Bombay.

Inclosure 2 in No. 135.

Lieutenant-Colonel Abud to Government of Bombay.

(Confidential.)

Sir,

Aden Residency, September 7, 1902.

I HAVE the honour to submit the following information received regarding the traffic in arms at Jibuti.

2. On the 27th August the steam-ship "Kor Ryster," from Suez, landed 200 cases of rifles and 150 cases of cartridges, on the 3rd instant the steam-ship "Vildymeis," from France, landed 40 cases of rifles, and the steam-ship "Africander," from France, 200 cases of rifles.

3. On the 16th August two native buggalows laden with arms sailed from Jibuti for Soorer (or Soolel) near Jeddah, two also sailed for Medi. Another sambook sailed for Medi on the 19th August.

On the 22nd August two sailed for Medi, on the 23rd three sailed for some Red Sea ports not known, on the 25th one sailed for Medi, and on the 27th one sailed for Revis.

All these buggalows carried arms and ammunition as the bulk of their cargo from Jibuti.

4. I would invite attention to Colonel Wahab's Secret letter, dated the 30th ultimo, from which it would appear that the coast from Loheya to close to Jida (Jeddah) is in the hands of the Imam (of Sana), and it is precisely between these two places that the ports mentioned herein are situate. It is therefore probable that these arms are being imported for the Imam.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. M. ABUD, *Lieutenant-Colonel,*
Political Resident.

No. 136.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received November 5.)

(A.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Lord George Hamilton, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of a telegram to the Viceroy, dated the 31st ultimo, relative to the Perso-Afghan boundary dispute.

India Office, November 4, 1902.

Inclosure in No. 136.

Lord G. Hamilton to Government of India.

(Telegraphic.) P.

India Office, October 31, 1902.

YOURS of the 27th instant. Your proposed measures regarding Seistan are approved. Instructions have meanwhile been sent to Tehran to convey to Persian Government strong remonstrance of His Majesty's Government against dispatch at present moment of Persian reinforcements from Birjand as likely to aggravate situation, and to remind them that under Article VI of the Treaty of 1857 Persia is under an obligation not to resort to arms unless friendly offices of His Majesty's Government fail of effect.

No. 137.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received November 5.)

(B.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Lord George Hamilton, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of a telegram to the Viceroy, dated the 31st ultimo, relative to the Aden delimitation.

India Office, November 4, 1902.

Inclosure in No. 137.

Lord G. Hamilton to Government of India.

(Telegraphic.) P.

India Office, October 31, 1902.

ADEN delimitation. My telegram of the 20th ultimo. O'Connor anticipates a satisfactory arrangement has now been arrived at, as he has received verbal message from Sultan agreeing to precise demands of British Government, to the effect that instructions will be sent to-day or to-morrow to Yemen authorities to evacuate the four places referred to in despatch to de Bunsen of the 18th August last, paragraph 4, and to proceed with delimitations north-eastwards to the desert.

No. 138.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received November 5.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Lord George Hamilton, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of a telegram to the Viceroy, dated the 31st October, relative to the proposal to send a military force to Ras-el-Arah.

India Office, November 4, 1902.

Inclosure in No. 138.

Lord G. Hamilton to Government of India.(Telegraphic.) P.
YOURS 16th.*India Office, October 31, 1902.*

Proposal to send military force to Ras-el-Arah.

O'Connor thinks this would be inexpedient at a time when we are insisting on the evacuation of disputed territories by Turkey, but that instructions to naval authorities to prevent the Turks occupying any place on the coast claimed by us would be unobjectionable.

Please instruct Resident accordingly.

No. 139.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received November 5.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Lord George Hamilton, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of a telegram to the Viceroy, dated the 3rd November, relative to the murder of Bahreinese near Katif.

India Office, November 4, 1902.

Inclosure in No. 139.

Lord G. Hamilton to Government of India.

(Telegraphic.) P.

India Office, November 3, 1902.

HIS Majesty's Government have no objection to the proposal contained in your telegram of 6th October that the Sheikh of Bahrein should enter into direct negotiations with the Behaih tribe through Sheikh Ahmad respecting the murder of Bahrein subjects near Katif.

No. 140.

Hamid Bey to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received November 5.)

LE Chargé d'Affaires de Turquie présente ses compliments au Marquis de Lansdowne et se réfère à l'aide-mémoire qu'il a fait remettre Samedi dernier, 1^{er} Novembre courant, à Sir Thomas Sanderson pour sa Seigneurie, à l'honneur de porter maintenant à sa haute connaissance qu'il est de nouveau chargé par son Gouvernement de l'informer que d'après un avis du Vali du Yémen le Commandant Italien a menacé de canonner dans les vingt-quatre heures le vapeur Ottoman et les sambouks se trouvant à Midi s'ils n'allaient pas se mettre à sa disposition dès le lendemain même.

Hamid Bey a en outre pour devoir de représenter que ce procédé du Commandant Italien joint à tous ceux qui ont déjà été signalés constitue une situation sans précédents

dans les annales des relations internationales et qu'elle s'explique d'autant moins que M. Prinetti avait fait savoir qu'à la suite des dispositions prises par le Gouvernement Ottoman le Cabinet de Rome considérerait l'incident comme clos.

Le Chargé d'Affaires doit de surplus faire observer à sa Seigneurie que le dit Commandant Italien a fait venir à son bord le Colonel Riza Bey et l'a obligé sous menace de bombardement à signer un acte déjà préparé dans lequel, après avoir reconnu que les conditions de l'ultimatum Italien n'avaient pas été remplies, il contractait une série de nouveaux engagements aussi injustifiés qu'onéreux.

Le Gouvernement Impérial Ottoman déclare que l'attitude du Commandant Italien devient de plus en plus incompréhensible et détruit toutes les déclarations de M. Prinetti et il estime qu'un acte arraché dans ces conditions ne saurait avoir aucune valeur.

Hamid Bey est chargé également de faire savoir à sa Seigneurie qu'en vue de prévenir de plus graves complications la Sublime Porte a demandé au Cabinet de Rome le rappel immédiat du dit Commandant Italien ainsi que de sa flotille, dont la présence dans ces parages n'a plus sa raison d'être puisque le Gouvernement Impérial avait accepté toutes les demandes de l'Italie.

Le Chargé d'Affaires a finalement pour instructions de signaler ces nouveaux procédés aussi injustes que contraires aux usages internationaux à l'attention de sa Seigneurie et de la prier de faire à Rome les représentations que comportent les circonstances pour décider le Gouvernement Italien à rappeler au plus tôt le dit Commandant et sa flotille.

*Ambassade Impériale de Turquie, Londres,
le 4 Novembre, 1902.*

No. 141.

Sir R. Rodd to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received November 5.)

(No. 71.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Rome, November 5, 1902.

FOLLOWING, with reference to my telegram No. 69 of yesterday and your telegram No. 44:—

According to Report of Italian Commander, particular care was given to direct line of fire away from the encampment of Turkish troops outside the town, in shelling Midi.

No. 142.

Sir N. O'Connor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received November 5.)

(No. 120.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Constantinople, November 5, 1902.

YOUR Lordship's telegram No. 138 of the 4th instant.

I am very grateful for the "Harrier's" presence at Hodeidah so long; there is no objection to her leaving now.

No. 143.

*The Atabeg-Azam to Mohammed Ali Khan.—(Communicated by Mohammed Ali Khan,
November 5, 1902.)*

(Translation.)

(Telegraphic.)

[Undated.]

ON the 17th Radjab the Foreign Office sent you a cyphered telegram with reference to the Customs of Mohammerah and Messrs. Lynch Brothers' goods, and requested you to discuss the question at the necessary quarters. What steps have you

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taken in this matter? The British Legation insists that Messrs. Lynch Brothers' goods should, as formerly, be taxed at the places from which they are sent off, and at which they arrive, such as Shuster, Ahvaz, and Dezful. As we have no Customs registers in the above-mentioned provinces except in Mohammerah, and all goods belonging to Persian and foreign subjects are taxed at Mohammerah, and as this treatment is now observed at all the northern and southern ports, the request of the British Legation that Messrs. Lynch Brothers' goods should not be taxed at Mohammerah, but should be taxed in the other provinces, is impossible.

Present my compliments to the Marquess of Lansdowne, and tell his Lordship that on an occasion like this, when the Persian Government are in need of amending and arranging their internal interests, the friendship of the British Government should be a source of such a support which may become a bar to the creation of any rights for others.

Telegraph the reply as soon as possible.

No. 144.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Mr. Erskine.

(No. 55.)

(Telegraphic.) P.
KARUN Customs.

Foreign Office, November 5, 1902.

With reference to your telegram No. 67 of 3rd November, Lynch's Agent telegraphed 3rd November that Customs have detained upward through cargo at Mohammerah, and that unless immediate steps are taken serious consequences will result.

No. 145.

Foreign Office to Admiralty.

(Confidential.)

Sir,

WITH reference to my letter of yesterday, I am directed by the Marquess of Lansdowne to transmit to you, to be laid before the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, a copy of a telegram from His Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople,* stating that he sees no objection to His Majesty's ship "Harrier" leaving Hodeidah. Lord Lansdowne concurs in Sir N. O'Connor's view.

I am, &c.

(Signed) T. H. SANDERSON.

No. 146.

Foreign Office to Euphrates and Tigris Steam Navigation Company.

Gentlemen,

Foreign Office, November 5, 1902.

I AM directed by the Marquess of Lansdowne to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 3rd instant relative to the measures taken by the Persian Customs authorities to levy duties on your cargoes at Mohammerah instead of the ports of destination.

I am to inform you that His Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at Tehran, who has made repeated representations to the Persian Government with a view to the system hitherto in force being allowed to continue, telegraphed to Lord Lansdowne on the 3rd instant that they had agreed to the following provisional arrangement:—

The Acting Administrator of Customs was to give instructions for all cargoes for Ahvaz, &c., which had arrived at Mohammerah before the 3rd instant, to be allowed to proceed unopened to their destinations, and a Custom-house employé was to be sent

* No. 142

up on a steamer to receive the duty there. The only condition was that, to avoid delay, your agents should declare and collect the duty.

Mr. Erskine informed your agent at Bussorah by telegraph of this arrangement.

I am, &c.

(Signed) T. H. SANDERSON.

P.S.—I am to acknowledge the receipt of your further letter of the 4th instant, and to inform you that the substance will be telegraphed to His Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at Tehran.

T. H. S.

No. 147.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received November 6.)

Sir,

India Office, November 5, 1902.

I AM directed by Lord George Hamilton to forward herewith, for Lord Lansdowne's consideration, with reference to the despatches to His Majesty's Ambassador at Paris, of the 16th April and of the 23rd April last, a copy of a letter from the Government of India, Secret, dated the 9th October, 1902, and inclosures, transmitting copies of further papers regarding the use of the French flag by subjects of the Sultan of Muscat.

Lord Lansdowne will observe that the Sultan of Muscat has informed the British Consul of two recent cases in which the French flag has been issued to His Highness' subjects at Sur. In the absence of any authentic list of persons who were in the month of June 1900 in possession of French papers of protection and considered to be entitled to the use of the French flag, it is impossible to say positively that cases such as those now reported are not cases of the renewal of papers previously issued. In the 2nd and 3rd paragraphs of his letter of the 20th September last Major Cox points out how the undertaking of 1900 can be evaded, unless the reissue of papers is strictly limited to the persons who possessed them at the time of the issue of the Sultan's Edict of June 1900. Lord George Hamilton trusts, therefore, that Lord Lansdowne will take an opportunity to remind the French Government of the necessity of furnishing the list suggested in the Memorandum of the 16th April last; and of instructing their Consuls in the Red Sea ports and elsewhere to limit the issue of papers of protection to those persons who were legitimately entitled to them at the date of the Sultan of Muscat's Edict in June 1900.

I am, &c.

(Signed) A. GODLEY.

Inclosure 1 in No. 147.

Government of India to Lord G. Hamilton.

My Lord,

Simla, October 9, 1902.

WITH reference to the correspondence ending with the Viceroy's Secret telegram, dated the 25th March last, regarding the use of the French flag by subjects of the Sultan of Muscat, we have the honour to forward a copy of the papers, as noted in the inclosed list.

2. We would invite special attention to the letter from our Political Agent at Muscat, dated the 12th September last, in which Major Cox emphasizes the importance of the recent capture of Omani dhows by the Portuguese as affording an opportunity for again addressing the French Government in the matter; and we would suggest, for the consideration of His Majesty's Government, that the French Government might now be invited to furnish an authentic list of the Omani subjects who are entitled to possess French flags and papers, and to state, for the information of the Sultan, the grounds on which each flag has been given, and the nature and extent of the rights and privileges which they claim for their protégés.

We would also strongly recommend that, in view of the assurance given by the French Ambassador to the Marquess of Lansdowne in February last, a strong protest should be entered against the issue of new papers to the Sultan's subjects, as reported in Major Cox' letter, dated the 20th September last.

3. In his letter, dated the 12th September last, to which we have already adverted,

Major Cox has again suggested the desirability of appointing a British Agent at Sur. We shall await an expression of opinion from our Political Resident in the Persian Gulf on this proposal, which we are not, as at present advised, prepared to recommend to your Lordship. In the meanwhile, we think it desirable to invite attention to the new developments in the case, as indicated in the inclosed papers, in the hope that His Majesty's Government will now be enabled to come to a satisfactory understanding with the French Government on this question, which so closely concerns the maintenance of our influence with the Sultan of Muscat.

We have, &c.
(Signed) CURZON.
A. P. PALMER.
T. RALEIGH.
E. FG. LAW.
E. R. ELLES.
A. T. ARUNDEL.
DENZIL IBBETSON.

Inclosure 2 in No. 147.

Major Cox to Government of India, March 4, 1902.

[Already printed.]

Inclosure 3 in No. 147.

Government of India to Major Cox, March 5, 1902.

[Already printed.]

Inclosure 4 in No. 147.

Major Cox to Government of India, March 8, 1902.

[Already printed.]

Inclosure 5 in No. 147.

Major Cox to M. Laronce, March 5, 1902

[Already printed.]

Inclosure 6 in No. 147.

M. Laronce to Major Cox, March 5, 1902.

[Already printed.]

Inclosure 7 in No. 147.

Major Cox to Government of India, June 11, 1902.

[Already printed.]

Inclosure 8 in No. 147.

Major Cox to Government of India, August 30, 1902.

[Already printed.]

Inclosure 9 in No. 147.

Abdulla-bin-Abdurrahman-es-Senani to Seyyid Feysal-bin-Turki, August 15, 1902.

[Already printed.]

Inclosure 10 in No. 147.

Seyyid-bin-Saleh-bin-Ali to Saleh-bin-Ali, April 29, 1902.

[Already printed.]

Inclosure 11 in No. 147.

Major Cox to Government of India, August 30, 1902.

[Already printed.]

Inclosure 12 in No. 147.

Major Cox to Lieutenant-Colonel Kenball, August 23, 1902.

[Already printed.]

Inclosure 13 in No. 147.

Major Cox to Government of India, September 12, 1902.

[Already printed.]

Inclosure 14 in No. 147.

Major Cox to Government of India.

(Confidential.)

Muscat, September 20, 1902.

I HAVE the honour to forward the translated purport of a communication received from His Highness the Sultan on the 18th instant, notifying the issue of French flags to two fresh individuals among his subjects at Sur.

2. I learn from an independent source that one of the persons mentioned formerly had a dhow with a French flag which was lost or sold four or five years ago, and that the man returned his papers to Obock at the time; and probably in both cases it will be sought to argue that the issue has only been a "renouvellement;" but I trust it will be maintained that the issue of papers to persons who did not possess them at the time of the publication of the Sultan's Edict of June 1900 is a breach of the undertaking given

by the French to Lord Lansdowne, even though the said papers may be technically "renouvellements," and not now issued for the first time. Unless this view is maintained, there will be no limit to the number of issues that French Consuls will be able to justify in this way, and M. Cambon's comforting observation, that "the difficulty was one that would disappear automatically in time," will lose any meaning that it may have had.

3. The Kazi of Sur, than whom it is impossible to have a more reliable informant, as he has lived in the community all his life, has given me independently the following items of Sur news:—

(1.) That a certain Suri applied for a flag last season at Zanzibar, but was referred by the French Consul at that port to his colleague at Muscat; the candidate accordingly approached M. Laronce during his visit to Sur this season, and was told that as his name was not already recorded on the register of persons to whom French flags had been issued from time to time in the past, he could not have one in his own name, but that the name of his uncle was down, who had since died or given up his paper, and that a "titre de navigation" could be issued again in that name if the candidate so desired. The Kazi believes, however, that, as the owner of the registered name had been dead some years, his relative, the aspirant, hesitated to take out the paper in his name. This information is purely spontaneous, but is exactly in accordance with what I have myself foreseen and pointed out.

(2.) A certain well-to-do Suri, who owed a large debt, had an attachment placed on his dhow by the Sultan's orders, pending liquidation of it. He at once came here and endeavoured to get French papers from M. Laronce. On failing to get them, he returned to Sur, and shortly liquidated the claim.

(3.) That the Suris, who are giving the Sultan's Hindustani Customs officials a good deal of trouble, are under the firm belief that the French Government have, and will continue to prevent the Sultan from building a proper Customs wharf and offices at Sur. I mention these incidents not because they call for special notice, but as evidence of the light in which the acquisition of the French flag is looked upon in Sur, and will continue to be looked upon until some specific action can be taken or notification issued, which will disabuse the community of their erroneous ideas. I beg in this connection to refer to the suggestion made in my letter of 1901 to the Resident, and its accompaniment, copies of which were forwarded to the Foreign Department, dated the 5th April, 1901, and to inquire whether, under the circumstances, the issue of some modification of the draft notification then submitted is not now possible.

4. In the meanwhile, until the Sultan has some well-founded idea as to what is likely to be the final result of the negotiations which, as he has been informed, are in progress between the Foreign Offices of London and Paris, it is impossible to expect him to take any bold line in his own behalf; for, if His Majesty's Government eventually proves unable to see the matter through, he is only bringing down upon himself the enmity of the French in the future. Moreover, in spite of the fact that negotiations have been going on for two years past in Europe, it must be remembered that the French lose no opportunity, at one time by profuse professions of friendship to the Sultan and at another by action calculated to frighten him, to stifle or square the matter locally.

5. I may mention that the Sultan, in connection with his present communication, reminded me that, though I had told him verbally of the French undertaking not to grant more flags, and of the British Government's readiness to support him in acting upon his notification of June 1900, he had not received the intimation in any official document, and asked whether that mattered. I told him I had no doubt he could have it officially in writing if it would make him more at ease, and he was satisfied; but the mere fact of his making the remark shows what was in his mind.

6. In regard to the negotiations which are understood to be going on in Europe, I have the honour to observe that the last item which I have received is the printed copy of despatches ending with India Office to Foreign Office despatch, dated the 25th March last; and I am not aware whether, during the six months that have since elapsed, His Majesty's Government has taken any action with the French Government in pursuance of that communication. If the Government of India have any recent information on this point, I trust it may be possible to communicate it to me, and I recommend at the same time that I may be permitted to address an official communication to the Sultan, on behalf of Government, intimating to him the undertaking given by the French to issue no new papers, and our own undertaking to support him in acting upon his notification of June 1900, and furthermore taking him into our confidence, as far as possible, with regard to the latest developments of the negotiations going on in Europe.

Such a communication will fortify him against the attentions of any French men-of-war that may be expected as soon as the season opens.

No. 147*.

The Earl of Cromer to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received November 6.)

(No. 19. Commercial.)
(Telegraphic.) P.

Cairo, November 6, 1902

PERSIAN Customs arrangements: I find that, in the course of the negotiations relating to tombac, the Egyptian Government addressed an official communication, in June 1893, to the Persian Consul-General to the effect that, "in virtue of the autonomy granted them, the Khedival Government would, unless the two countries concluded some new arrangement, resume their complete liberty of action at the expiration of the present Convention, and decline to admit that any arrangements made between the Ottoman Government and Persia were binding upon them."

I shall have the honour to forward to your Lordship by next mail the French text of this document.

A protest was raised by the Persian Government, but subsequently, when the tombac arrangement was concluded, all their protests and reserves were withdrawn formally and in writing.

7. Government will, I trust, not consider me importunate, but will understand that, owing to the negotiations having become so protracted, it is not surprising if the Sultan begins to fear that His Majesty's Government do not intend to go through with the matter, and in this regard it must be remembered that, though it is apparent from the record that since the issue was prominently raised in June 1900, the flag question has advanced considerably, yet, as far as the Sultan and the Suris are concerned, it is, for practical purposes, on just the same footing as it was. Moreover, knowing that the whole question was the subject of discussion and negotiation at home, I felt that the matter had passed out of my hands, and that any action taken by me here was superfluous and could not affect the approaching issue. Meanwhile, time passes, and that issue is delayed, and my own quiescent attitude is, I fear, liable to misinterpretation and to encourage the supposition that His Majesty's Government is unable to give the Sultan effective support in the matter. I can but urge, therefore, the great importance of expediting the final issue as much as possible. The French have everything to gain by its protraction, and we and the Sultan everything to lose.

8. In conclusion I beg to reiterate the opinion that in any case the first and all-important object to achieve is the furnishing to us or to the Sultan by the French of a list of the flag-holders, their names and tribes in full, and the grounds in each case on which the holder is considered entitled to a flag; and I would add that, unless we interest ourselves independently in the correctness of such a list, the Sultan will be no more consulted in the matter by the French than he has been at any other phase in the progress of this question.

Inclosure 15 in No. 147.

The Sultan of Muscat to Major Cox.

(Translation.)

(After the usual compliments.)

14th Jumadi-el-Akhir (September 18, 1902).

I HAVE the honour to inform you that news has reached me from a trustworthy source that two of my subjects, residents of Sur, have recently taken French flags from French Consuls either in Muscat or elsewhere. Their names are Juma-bin-Saeed-bin-Bilal El Mukheini, and Mubarak-bin-Saif-bin-Mubarak El Mukheini.

As your Honour has informed me that negotiations are going on between your Government and the French Government, it does not seem to me desirable for me to take any steps in the matter, but I give you notice of the fact, in order that you may do what you think fit in the direction of informing Government.

It must be obvious to you that the giving of flags to persons who did not possess before the date of my notification is a breach of the promise given by the French Government to your Honour's Government in this connection, of which you notified me.

This is what had to be explained.

May you be preserved, and salaam.

No. 148.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir N. O'Connor.

(No. 142.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Foreign Office, November 6, 1902.

A COMMUNICATION was made by the Turkish Chargé d'Affaires on the 4th instant, stating that it was reported by the Vali of Yemen, that the Italian Commander had threatened to open fire on Turkish steamer and sambouks at Midiz unless within twenty-four hours they were placed at his disposal.

Hamid Bey had been instructed to represent that a situation without precedent was created by this proceeding, coming as it did after those to which attention had already been called, and it was all the more difficult to explain, as the Italian Minister for Foreign Affairs had intimated that he considered the incident at an end in consequence of the steps which the Turkish Government had taken.

Hamid Bey was further to state that Colonel Riza Bey had been summoned on board by the Italian Commander, and under threat of bombardment forced to sign a paper in which he was bound to further onerous and unjustifiable engagements, after admitting that the conditions of the Italian ultimatum had not been fulfilled.

Such a signature extracted under compulsion was, in the opinion of the Turkish Government, not binding, and they had demanded that the Italian Commander and

squadron should be immediately recalled, their further presence under the circumstances being unnecessary as all the Italian demands had been accepted by the Porte.

The Turkish Government requested the good offices of His Majesty's Government at Rome in support of their demand.

I informed Hamid Bey of the account given by the Italian Government of the affair as reported by Sir R. Rodd in his telegram No. 69.

I added that it was only after the most serious provocation that the Italian Commander had acted, that as operations had now been suspended, I hoped the matter would not give rise to any further trouble, and that I felt satisfied that, beyond obtaining the reparation admitted by the Porte to be due, the Italian Government had no further object or desire.

No. 149.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir R. Rodd.

(No. 46.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Foreign Office, November 6, 1902.

MY immediately preceding telegram, repeating my telegram No. 142 of the 6th instant to Sir N. O'Connor, regarding the bombardment of Midiz by the Italians. Communicate substance to Italian Government.

No. 150.

Foreign Office to Hamid Bey.

My dear Sir,

Foreign Office, November 6, 1902.

LORD LANSDOWNE regrets that he was too much occupied to be able to see you yesterday afternoon.

He desires me to say that, according to the information which the Italian Government have been good enough to communicate to us respecting the incident at Midez, it was only after the most serious provocation that the Italian Naval Commander opened fire upon the place. Although he had arrived there, accompanied by a Turkish official and Turkish troops, his ships were attacked by the inhabitants, two of his men were killed, and the Turkish force, according to his account, remained inactive.

Lord Lansdowne is informed that the inhabitants have now promised satisfaction by the 11th instant, and that, meanwhile, the Naval Commander has suspended any further measures. Lord Lansdowne trusts that the matter may not give rise to further trouble. He is satisfied that the Italian Government have no object or desire beyond obtaining reparation, which the Turkish Government themselves have admitted to be due.

I have, &c.

(Signed) T. H. SANDERSON.

No. 151.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received November 7.)

Sir,

India Office, November 6, 1902.

I AM directed to forward, for the information of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, a copy of a telegram received from the Viceroy of India on the 31st ultimo, on the subject of the Seistan boundary dispute.

I am to invite attention to the reported attitude of the Persians, whose armed labourers are engaged in working on a new channel above Shahgul Bund, with the expectation that this, when opened, will prevent water reaching the old Helmund, and whose officials are in consultation with M. Miller and generally aggravating a situation already acute. Inasmuch as the Persian Government has referred this difference for adjustment to the British Government, this action on the part of their officers and subjects appear unjustifiable.

As regards the Afghans, it appears that in a part of the course of the Helmund, above Kohak, where both sides of the river are in the Ameer's

territory, steps are being taken to intercept the waters and direct them into another course. It is true that, according to the arbitral Award, no works are to be "carried out on either side calculated to interfere with the requisite supply of water for irrigation on both banks of the Helmund." But it is open to argument how far the action of the Afghans upon the Helmund above, that is to say south south-east of, the Kohak Bund, may be defended as a consequence of the action that had previously been taken by the Persians. This is an issue which must be left for the Arbitrator to determine. In the meanwhile the Ameer has not yet accepted arbitration.

In the present condition of affairs it seems to the Secretary of State for India that the Persian Government should be required by His Majesty's Government to refrain from any alteration of the *status quo*, and should be again seriously warned of their responsibility for any injuries or losses which their assemblage of armed forces and labourers may entail. At the same time, the progress of Major McMahon, with an adequate escort, should be accelerated, and the Ameer assured that the rights and claims on each side will be impartially considered.

I am to inquire whether Lord Lansdowne approves of these proposals.

I am, &c.

(Signed) A. GODLEY.

Inclosure in No. 151.

Government of India to Lord G. Hamilton.

(Telegraphic.) P.

October 31, 1902.

MY telegram of the 27th.

Seven hundred armed Persian labourers are reported by Benn on the 18th to be employed in opening a new channel above Shahgul Bund, which Persians anticipate will prevent water reaching the old Helmund channel.

Their operations are being watched by Afghans on opposite bank. The Afghans hope to be able permanently to divert the Helmund by a deep channel above Seistan Bund, on which they are now working under a Commandant with a guard of 100 men. Other troops have been warned to be present on day of opening the new channel.

Yamin-i-Nizam, who is in frequent consultation with Miller, has disapproved of Karguzar's proposal to seek the intervention of Benn. There is no water at Mian Kangi, but it has reached land between Pariun Nasratabad and village to south-west, and unless the Afghans open their new channel the spring harvest should be assured.

On the 18th October Benn was instructed to inform Akhundzada that if collision resulted from opening of fresh canals and construction of new bunds, the Ameer would be held responsible, since the British Arbitrator might have already reached Seistan had my letters to His Highness been promptly answered. Minister at Tehran has been kept informed.

No. 152.

Resident, Aden, to Government of Bombay.—(Communicated by India Office, November 7.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

November 6, 1902.

WHATEVER may be the issue of the negotiations at Constantinople regarding Aden boundary, it is doubtful whether the Turks will withdraw their posts unless we make a display of force; this probability is increased by the resignation, or dismissal, of the present Vali of Yemen, Husen Helmi, which leaves Mushir Abdullah Pasha master of the situation. Hitherto I have collected no transport, because of the expense, but in one week 500 camels for Aden column might be hired, and in a month or six weeks 2,000 more might be purchased. If by the 15th November the Turkish posts have not been withdrawn, transport for the column should, in my opinion, be

[1565]

entertained without delay, and, the season for military operations being short, if the Turks are still declining to agree to withdrawal, we should commence to purchase camels at once. If we did not want them here, they would very likely be useful in the Somali Protectorate.

(Repeated to Secretary of State.)

No. 153.

Sir R. Rodd to the Marquess of Lansdowne. — (Received November 7.)

(No. 72.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Rome, November 7, 1902.

INFORMATION contained in my telegram No. 69 has been confirmed by further reports received from the Italian Red Sea squadron.

Pirates, by opening fire on the Italian boats stationed round harbour, precipitated the crisis. It had been arranged that until guilty parties were surrendered, if Italian subjects, or if local subjects, were tried and punished, Turkish troops should cut off escape of pirates by land, and that Italian flotilla should cut off their escape by sea.

No decision has as yet been taken by the Italian Government, who are now considering means of finally settling the incident.

No. 154.

Admiralty to Foreign Office. — (Received November 8.)

Sir,

Admiralty, November 6, 1902.

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to transmit to you herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copies of letters dated the 29th September last and 5th ultimo from the Commanding Officer, His Majesty's ship "Harrier," forwarded by the Commander-in-chief, Mediterranean, relative to the suppression of piracy and Slave Trade in the Red Sea.

I am, &c.

(Signed) EVAN MACGREGOR.

Inclosure 1 in No. 154.

Commander Tower to Admiralty.

(Extract.)

"Harrier" at Massowah, September 29, 1902.

I FOUND here, on arrival, the Italian torpedo gun-boat "Caprera," their only man-of-war here at present, and this morning I called on Capitaine de Frigate Finzi, who has returned the visit. I gather from him that the Italian Government have purchased 2 native craft from Jeddah, each armed with 2 guns, 25 native troops, 16 natives and 3 Italian gunners. For these sambocks they paid 7,500 and 4,500 lire respectively, that up to the present they have had no success with the pirates, and Captain Finzi led me to understand they were tired of the business of chasing pirates, as the latter always had ample warning when a Government dhow left Massowah.

However, within the last three or four weeks, the pirates from the Arabian coast opposite, have made a very successful raid on the Dabalak Island, but 30 or 40 miles outside Massowah, also on Disei Island, and got away with 30,000 dollars from the traders and pearl fishers, and this information I have had confirmed from other sources.

The Italian Government dhows are now patrolling round Dahalak and Disei Islands; the boats are in charge of a petty officer only, and from what I gather, not sufficient energy is at present displayed by the Italian naval authorities to cope with the persistent work of these pirate tribes, though doubtless they will be most difficult to run down.

The Italians have a penitentiary at Nakhra in Dahalak Island, and orders have been received to convey all the prisoners from there to Asab Bay, but I could not elicit for what reason.

I was informed that the "Vulturno" is now at Aden and going on to the Somali Coast, that the "Galileo" was coming to Massowah (she was at Suez when I passed through), and the "Barbarigo" from Italy; also that the "Piedmonte" shortly leaving Italy for China, would stop here *en route*, and that it was the intention that these three ships should make a demonstration on the Arabian coast, and demand from Turkey that these pirates should be given up under threat of bombardment.

It appears that a place called Medi, in latitude about 16° 18' north inside Farisan group, about 2 miles inland, is the home of the loot obtained by these pirates.

I am also informed that Bin Gobeish, the pirate alluded to in copy of letter from Consul at Jeddah attached to my sailing orders No. 41, has been killed by another pirate tribe named Asharof, and that the raid of a few weeks ago was planned and executed by two sons of Bin Gobeish.

There is no other official here at present besides the Captain of the "Caprera"; the Italian Civil Governor is in Italy, and a Colonel administering from Asmara, their hill station.

Captain of "Caprera" assured me that no Traffic in Slaves was going on within their limit of surveillance, but that many cargoes are being landed in the Yemen, and that he had heard from Jibuti or thereabouts.

I made it clear to Captain of "Caprera" that my mission was to co-operate with him so far as possible in the suppression of piracy; and he has arranged to telegraph to me at Perim any news which may be of interest with regard to the success of their armed dhows.

Inclosure 2 in No. 154.

Commander Tower to Admiralty.

(Extract.)

"Harrier" at Perim, October 5, 1902.

VICE-CONSUL RICHARDSON informs me that since the "Scout's" visit last April he has had no information whatever as regards the Slave Traffic, and he does not think that there is much of it, if any, carried on at present, and as regards acts of piracy, a batch of pirates was caught last June off the Farisan group, and brought to Hodeidah, and that the small Turkish steam-launches (armed) have been fairly busy for the past two months patrolling the coasts, but, as far as I can gather, these Turkish launches occupy themselves chiefly in searching for dhows with contraband tobacco. Vice-Consul Richardson further informs me that he has heard of no piracies for the past six weeks or two months. On the other hand, I think it is only that the pirates are working further afield, as proved by the successful raid on the Dahalak Islands and Disei group only a few weeks ago, when they got away with 30,000 dollars, as reported in my last letter.

Further, I learn from other sources that a caravan has already arrived on the African coast, opposite Perim, from Abyssina, with not less than 600 slaves destined for the Yemen, and that they are recruiting some few miles inland, and may probably remain there a month or so before an attempt is made to run them across, the southerly wind not being yet strong enough, and the slaves having, as is usual, arrived in an emaciated condition.

I am assured that a slave market has been established at Medi, on the mainland, inside the Farisan group.

With this information I weighed from Hodeidah, without navigation lights, at 2 A.M., the 2nd October, proceeding to the southward, at the same time sending my cutter and whaler away to the northward, armed and provisioned for seven days, in charge of Lieutenant Honourable Leveson-Gower and Sub-Lieutenant Plowden respectively, with orders to cruise and search for dhows as far north as the 16th parallel, keeping inside the islands, and out of sight of mainland, and to rejoin me at a rendezvous on Tuesday next off Kamaran.

On my way to Perim, from Hodeidah, I chased and cut off a dhow, flying the Italian flag, proceeding to Mecca, and finding her papers, &c., in order, I did not detain her.

Arriving at Perim at 4 P.M., the 2nd October (telegram No. 5), I coaled the following day (132 tons), and at 8 A.M. His Majesty's ship "Perseus" arrived with one of her armed dhows (carrying a 3-pr.), which has been cruising off the Somali Coast, and both left the same afternoon for Aden.

I have made arrangements with the Senior Naval Officer, Aden, to send me two

dhows, one larger than the other, to carry a 3-pr., and to telegraph to me the price for hiring. I cannot go to Aden myself at present, wishing to pick up my boats to the northward as arranged. I think it best to hire from Aden, being to windward, and much nearer than any other likely place, and I wish to have them here as soon as possible, as I do not anticipate much good work being done with ship's boats.

The probable price for dhows will be from 250 to 350 rupees a-month (18*l.* to 26*l.*).

I propose leaving here to-morrow evening for Kamaran and Hodeidah to pick up my boats and revictual them, and confer with Vice-Consul at Hodeidah, which port is now free from quarantine, returning to Perim to meet dhows from Aden, if procurable, and fit them out here.

Inclosure 3 in No. 154.

Memorandum to Lieutenant Honourable W. S. Leveson-Gower, Royal Navy.

1. HAVING seen the cutter and whaler fully manned, armed and provisioned for seven days, you are to take Sub-Lieutenant Richard A. A. Plowden under your orders, and cruise in company to the northward of Hodeidah up to about latitude 16°, keeping amongst the islands, which extend about 20 miles off the coast.

2. You are to search for dhows engaged in the Slave Trade or piracy, the search being conducted strictly in accordance with the Instructions for Officers employed on detached boat service, as supplied to you.

3. Quarantine having been declared against this coast, you will avoid all communication with the mainland, and, as far as possible, with any tribes on the islands.

4. No risks are to be run with the whaler in open waters.

5. You will take shelter, as necessary, under the lee of the islands, which should afford you good anchorages.

6. Endeavour not to be seen from the mainland while cruising.

7. Use your discretion in sending a suspected dhow with a prize crew to Hodeidah to await my arrival.

8. You will rejoin me on Tuesday, at 2 P.M., off Rishah Island, south of Kamaran. If you are unable to reach that rendezvous by that time, I shall proceed to Okban Island, and anchor off the north end of it for the night, returning to Rishah Island the following morning.

(Signed) CYRIL TOWER,
Commander and Senior Naval Officer,
Red Sea Division.

"Harrier" at Hodeidah, October 1, 1902.

No. 155.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Mr. Erskine.

(No. 56.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Foreign Office, November 8, 1902.

SEISTAN boundary: According to the telegram from the Viceroy of the 31st October, armed Persian labourers are working at a fresh channel above the Shahgul Bund, in order to prevent water from reaching the old channel of the Helmund.

It also appears that the Yamin-i-Nizam has, after consultation with the Russian Consul in Seistan, refused to agree to a proposal made by the Karguzar, that the British Consul should be asked to intervene.

Seeing that the matter in dispute has been referred to His Majesty's Government by the Persian Government for adjustment, these proceedings tend to aggravate the situation and cannot be justified.

I request that you will urge strongly upon the Persian Government the necessity of their refraining from any action of a nature to disturb the *status quo*, that you will warn them that in the event of any injuries or losses being entailed owing to the assemblage of armed forces and labourers, the responsibility will rest with them.

His Majesty's Government will not fail on their part to accelerate the arrival of the British Arbitrator by all the means in their power.

No. 156.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Mr. Erskine.

(No. 57.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Foreign Office, November 8, 1902.

I HAVE received your telegram No. 67 of the 3rd November.

Two telegrams from the Mushir-ed-Dowleh and the Grand Vizier have been communicated by the Persian Minister, stating that at Mohammerah, as at all other ports, a Customs' register has been instituted as a result of the new Customs arrangements, ~~which~~ at Ahwaz, Shuster, Dizful, and other inland stations, custom-houses will be done away with. The previous arrangement was that the tax on goods belonging to Persian subjects, imported or exported by the Karun, was levied at the destination. The same treatment as that of Persian subjects was accorded to Messrs. Lynch, and at the request of His Majesty's Legation, instructions were sent accordingly some years ago. But Messrs. Lynch have no longer any right to be excepted now that foreigners and Persians are taxed equally at Mohammerah, where Customs registers alone exist. For if such exception were made, other merchants might be led to claim the right of paying duty at Tehran on goods destined for that place. It was therefore impossible to entertain Messrs. Lynch's request, and the Persian Minister was directed to discuss the question with me.

He has been informed in reply that I consider the position at Mohammerah to differ from that of any other port, in that it is situated at the mouth of a river opened to steam navigation. It was only on the assurance that cargoes would not have to be unloaded at Mohammerah, but that duties might be paid at destination, that Messrs. Lynch had agreed to undertake the navigation. Were this arrangement to be worked without notice or any compensatory advantages, it would be unfair and inconsistent with good faith, and commerce, by which Persian revenues are benefited, would be seriously affected. A provisional arrangement had, I was glad to hear, been made, and I trusted that His Majesty's Minister might be able to come to an agreement with the Grand Vizier either that the present system should be continued or that other arrangements equally convenient might be substituted for it, and that pending such an agreement the provisional arrangement should continue in force.

No. 157.

Foreign Office to Mohammed Ali Khan.

My dear Minister,

Foreign Office, November 8, 1902.

LORD LANSDOWNE desires me to say that he has given his best attention to the two telegrams from the Mushir-ed-Dowleh and the Atabeg-Azam, which you have communicated respecting the method of levying customs duties on the merchandise brought by Messrs. Lynch's steamers to Mohammerah on their way to and from places higher up the Karun River.

It appears to Lord Lansdowne that the position of Mohammerah differs from that of any other Persian port. It is situated at the mouth of a river which has been thrown open to steam navigation, and when Messrs. Lynch undertook to run steamers up the River Karun, they did so on the assurance that they would not be called upon to unload the cargoes at Mohammerah for the purpose of Customs examination, but would be allowed to pay duty on them at the ports higher up the river for which they were destined. To revoke this arrangement without notice, and without endeavouring in some way to offer compensatory advantages, would not only, in Lord Lansdowne's opinion, be manifestly unfair and inconsistent with good faith, but it would very probably have a most serious effect on the commerce from which Persia is deriving considerable advantage and revenue.

Lord Lansdowne is glad to learn that the Persian Government have given orders that cargoes which have arrived up to the present time shall be allowed to pass up the river under special arrangements. He trusts that when Sir A. Hardinge arrives it may be found possible to agree with him either for the continuance of the system hitherto in force, or for the substitution of some other regulations equally convenient for the steam traffic up the River Karun, and that, in the meanwhile, the provisional arrangement will be continued.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. H. SANDERSON.

No. 158.

Foreign Office to India Office.

Sir,

Foreign Office, November 8, 1902.

I HAVE laid before the Marquess of Lansdowne your letter of the 6th instant, inclosing a telegram from the Viceroy of India on the subject of the Perso-Afghan boundary dispute.

Lord Lansdowne concurs in the proposal of the Secretary of State for India that a representation should be addressed to the Persian Government with regard to the acts reported by the Viceroy, and a copy of the telegraphic instructions which has been addressed to His Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at Tehran on the subject is transmitted herewith.*

His Lordship also concurs in Lord George Hamilton's suggestion that the progress of Major McMahon, with an adequate escort, should be accelerated, and that the Ameer should be assured that the rights and claims of each side will be impartially considered.

I am, &c.

(Signed) T. H. SANDERSON.

No. 159.

Sir N. O'Connor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received November 9.)

(No. 123.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Constantinople, November 8, 1902.

THE following are the terms on which, according to the Minister for Foreign Affairs, the Italian incident has been settled:—

18,000 reals will be immediately paid by the Ottoman Government as compensation for piratical acts at Dhalak: the Italian Government on their part will allow a reasonable time for the capture and punishment of the pirates.

The Ottoman Government will also recognize the Italian flag on sambouks, belonging to the Italian Littoral of the Red Sea, and the same privileges will be accorded to Italian vessels generally as are enjoyed by other foreign flags from the western coast of the Red Sea.

6,000 fr. will be paid by the Turkish Government as an indemnity for the Italian sailors killed and wounded.

No. 160.

Mr. Erskine to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received November 9.)

(No. 68.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Tehran, November 9, 1902.

MOHAMMERAH Customs.

The instructions to the Customs, referred to in my telegram No. 67 of the 3rd instant, were only sent on that date, and had probably not yet arrived when Lynch's agent dispatched the telegram referred to in your Lordship's telegram No. 55 of the 5th instant.

No. 161.

Sir N. O'Connor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received November 10.)

(No. 487.)

My Lord,

Constantinople, November 4, 1902.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 464 of the 21st ultimo, I am glad to be able to report that I learnt yesterday from the Porte that, in consequence of the recommendations which I made to the Minister of Marine, orders have been sent to

* No. 155.

No. 160*.

The Earl of Cromer to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received November 10.)

(No. 94. Commercial.)

My Lord,

Cairo, October 31, 1902.

BEFORE the receipt of your Lordship's telegram No. 9, Commercial, of the 30th instant, I had already caused inquiries to be made in regard to the points raised in Sir A. Hardinge's Memorandum respecting the Turco-Persian Commercial Agreement.

I have the honour to transmit herewith copy of a note drawn up by Mr. Chitty, Director-General of Egyptian Customs, in which the different points dealt with in Sir Arthur Hardinge's Memorandum are discussed in the following order:—

(a.) Refers to observation No. 2, beginning with the words "the enjoyment of," &c., down to "and are subject to the most-favoured-nation principle" (observation No. 3).

(b.) Deals with Sir A. Hardinge's first observations.

(c.) Criticises the two paragraphs commencing with the words "It follows from the above," &c., down to "but on this point I do not here offer a decided opinion."

(d.) Discusses the paragraphs beginning "If the Porte fails us altogether," &c., down to "the treatment of the Treaty of Erzeroum."

I should add that Mr. Chitty is a highly competent official, and speaks with a thorough knowledge of matters such as that now under discussion.

I have, &c.

(Signed) CROMER.

Inclosure in No. 160*.

Memorandum.

I VENTURE to submit the following remarks on certain of the points discussed by Sir A. Hardinge in his Memorandum respecting the Turco-Persian Commercial Arrangement of September 1902. In order to avoid repetition, I have marked the different points on the Memorandum in the order in which I shall allude to them:—

(a.) Article XIV of the Treaty of 1875. From the text of this Article there appears to me to be no doubt that it merely refers to the status of Ottoman and Persian subjects, and not to trade between the two countries. The intention of the Article was solely to prescribe that the subjects of either of the Contracting Parties would be allowed to inhabit the country of the other on the same conditions as those granted to the subjects of the most-favoured nation. This meaning is particularly apparent if Article XIV is read in connection with the other thirteen Articles of the Treaty. Moreover, it may be taken for granted that, had it not been so, the Turks would have immediately imposed the 8 per cent. duty on Persian goods.

(b.) If, then, my contention in the preceding paragraph is exact, the stipulation in the new Agreement of the most-favoured-nation treatment in respect to imports and exports is distinctly a disposition contrary to the provisions of Article II of the Treaty of 1823, and of Article VI of the Treaty of 1847.

The effect of the Agreement will, therefore, be to abrogate these two Articles as soon as it becomes operative.

(c.) I gather from the arguments used in paragraphs 2 and 3, p. 2 of the Memorandum, that Sir A. Hardinge reads the new Agreement as meaning that the most-favoured-nation treatment to be applied in both countries is the most favourable treatment accorded to other nations in one or other of the two countries concerned. It is inconceivable that any country would so jeopardize its finances as to bind itself to apply the most-favoured-nation treatment accorded by another country, however friendly. I imagine that the intention is that Persian goods entering Turkey shall enjoy the most-favoured treatment granted to other nations by Turkish Treaties, and *vice versa*. I have not had an opportunity of seeing the Turkish text of the Agreement, but I do not think that any other interpretation than the above can be given to "se garantissent réciproquement" of the translation.

Even supposing, for the sake of argument, Sir A. Hardinge's view to be correct, that, as a result of the Agreement, Turkey could claim to pay a 4 per cent. duty on her goods entering Persia, and consequently Persia could claim a similar rate on Persian goods entering Turkey, I do not think, under existing circumstances, he is right in

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stating that all other Powers having most-favoured-nation clauses in their Treaties with the Porte could claim similar treatment in Turkey.

I must explain that, in the Treaties actually in force between Turkey and the Powers, the stipulation relating to the most-favoured-nation treatment applies exclusively to "Puissances étrangères." This is the term used in the majority of these Treaties (*e.g.*, *vide* Article I of Treaty with France, Appendix (A) of Egyptian Customs Code). Now, Persia has never been considered by Turkey as a "Puissance étrangère." This view must also have been held by the European Powers, otherwise they would long since have claimed to pay 6 per cent. instead of 8 per cent. on their goods. I notice that the Treaty of 1847 between Turkey and Persia begins: "Entre les deux Puissances Musulmanes."

(*d.*) As regards the question as to whether, under existing circumstances, Egypt is bound by any new commercial arrangements which may be made between the Porte and Persia, I am of the opinion that, in the absence of any special Convention between Egypt and Persia, we are undoubtedly expected to observe an Arrangement of the nature of that of September 1902.

The fact that Egypt negotiated an Arrangement with Persia concerning tombac in 1887 without reference to Turkey, does not, in my opinion, imply the contrary.

The history of the tombac Arrangement is briefly the following: Until 1876, the duty on Persian tombac entering Turkey and Egypt was 6 per cent. By a "Karar-Namé" promulgated in 1876, Turkey fixed (Article II) the import duty at 75 per cent. of the value, and declared that there should be no other dues on tombac after payment of the import duty. Article VI of the same document prescribed that the duty was to be collected at all ports of the Ottoman Empire, including Egypt and certain other countries specially mentioned.

In conformity with this order, Egypt began collecting duty on the 75 per cent. basis, but augmented it by an octroi due until 1885. In that year, the 75 per cent. duty was abolished by Khedivial Decree and replaced by a duty of £ T. 10 per kilogram.

In 1886 or 1887 the attention of the Egyptian Government was called, locally, to the fact that large sums of money had been illegally collected on tombac in consequence of the non-observance of the Turkish "Karar-Namé." Law-suits for the recovery of the money—estimated at about £ E. 300,000—were even hinted at. It appears therefore to have been thought expedient to revert to the Turkish conditions. An Arrangement was come to with Persia in April 1887. Article 1 of this Arrangement fixed the import duty at the Turkish rate of 75 per cent.; Article 2 (taken also from the "Karar-Namé") provided for a refund of the duty, less 10 per cent. in the event of re-exportation. Article 3 gave the Egyptian Government the power to create a monopoly, and to collect a "droit de monopole qui, ajouté au droit fixe prévu à l'Article 1^{er}, n'excéderait pas 7 piastres au tarif par oque."

It may be argued that, as Articles 1 and 2 only re-established the conditions of the Turkish "Karar-Namé" of 1876, of which the application in Egypt had been temporarily suspended, the Agreement of 1887 between Egypt and Persia was, in reality, merely in connection with the question of the monopoly, *i.e.*, an "affaire intérieure" which, in virtue of the Firman of 1873, she had the right to regulate herself, without regard to conditions existing in Turkey.

However this may be, Egypt, no doubt, holds that her Arrangement of 1887—prolonged by a second Agreement, dated the 9th July, 1894—is binding both on herself and on Persia until 1919, whatever changes the Turks may see fit to make in the import duty on Persian tombac; not that a change in the duty, even if adhered to by Egypt, would make any difference to the existing state of things, inasmuch as the amalgamated import duty and "droit de monopole" could always be made to work out to the present rate of 7 piastres per oke.

I may add that, in the Agreement of 1894 (Article 2), Egypt has stipulated her right from the 1st May, 1919, to "reprendre . . . sa liberté absolue de réglementation pour tout ce qui concerne le régime des tombacs Persans en Égypte, sans que le Gouvernement Persan puisse en aucun cas se prévaloir d'arrangements antérieurs quelconques." I have no doubt that the word "régime" includes import duty.

I do not think the conclusion of the above Arrangements relating to tombac affords proof that, under existing circumstances, Egypt is not expected to observe the provisions of commercial arrangements come to between Turkey and Persia concerning other goods.

(Signed) A. CHITTY.

Alexandria, October 28, 1902.

the local authorities at Hodeida to destroy the piratical sambouks belonging to the nephew of Bin Gobeish, which have been captured by the Turkish gun-boat in the vicinity of that port.

His Majesty's Consul has since telegraphed that the vessels have been burnt, and expresses his gratification at the result of my representations. I trust that the incident may have a deterrent effect on the piratical Arabs who have of late been infesting this part of the Red Sea.

I have, &c.
(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

No. 162.

Sir N. O'Connor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received November 10.)

(No. 488.)

My Lord,

Constantinople, November 4, 1902.

WITH reference to my telegram No. 118 of yesterday, I have the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith copy of a Memorandum by Mr. Block, First Dragoman of the Embassy, in which is embodied the substance of a letter from the Grand Vizier to the Minister for Foreign Affairs, giving an account of the present position of the conflict with Italy at Midi.

Mr. Block adds a short summary of the replies received from the Powers to the Circular sent by the Porte on Thursday, the 30th ultimo, requesting their good offices in the matter.

The Sublime Porte desired that I should be informed of the above letter, while at the same time they again appealed to me to obtain the good offices of His Majesty's Government in their difficulties with that of Italy.

I now learn that the Ottoman Ambassador in Rome has had a further interview with M. Prinetti, who maintains that Italy's only object is the punishment of the pirates and the settlement of the question of the status of sambouks flying the Italian flag coming from the Massowah coast to Turkish ports. M. Prinetti adds that a further delay of five days has been granted by the Commander for compliance with the ultimatum, and he cannot obtain very recent information from the ship at Midi, which leads him to think that the Turkish authorities are delaying the telegrams, and that it is possible that the reports from the Vali of the Yemen, and Riza Bey, the Colonel in command of Turkish troops at Midi, give an exaggerated and false impression of what has gone on, in order to mislead the Turkish Government and prevent a solution as desired by the two Governments.

Reshed Bey, the Ottoman Ambassador, adds that the Turkish Government, although in principle justified in appealing to the Powers, may afterwards be in an unpleasant position, if the information from its authorities proves later to be exaggerated or unfounded.

The Porte, however, up to the present continue to show considerable anxiety, and the question, like the Aden frontier question of last week, is engrossing the entire attention of the Sultan and his Ministers.

I have, &c.
(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

Inclosure in No. 162.

Memorandum by Mr. Block.

THE Foreign Minister communicated to me to-day a letter from the Grand Vizier, dated yesterday, as follows:—

The Italian Foreign Minister had informed the Ottoman Ambassador in Rome that he was astonished to hear that the Italian Commander had bombarded Midi; that he was convinced that the Turkish Government would severely punish those among the guilty who were Turkish subjects, and that he had accordingly instructed the Italian Commander to hand over to the Turks any Turkish subjects he might have had in custody; and according to information from Rome, M. Prinetti had told the foreign Representatives that the incident was closed. In spite of these assurances, the Italian Commander had

on Friday bombarded Midi, and had threatened to bombard again unless Riza Bey, Colonel of the Ottoman troops at Midi, came off to his ship, bringing his seal with him; the Italian Commander had also threatened that he would take with him to Hodeida in tow the Turkish steamer, now at Midi, and the sambocks lying in the bay, and that if these vessels did not come alongside of him at dawn, he would fire upon them. Thus on the one side the Italian Commander bombards, whilst the Italian Foreign Minister says he has no information, that he is much astonished, that he will ask for information, and, in fact, is evidently endeavouring to "se dérober." He is either shuffling or else the Italian Government is allowing the Commander to act in disobedience to orders, and is thus showing great carelessness and negligence, whilst the Commander on his side says he has orders from his Government to go to extremes. This situation is most extraordinary, and the Commander's action is quite contrary to all international usage and courtesy; it is impossible to explain or understand what may be Italy's ulterior object.

The Grand Vizier goes on to say that he is commanded by Imperial Iradé to instruct Tewfik Pasha to bring these facts to the knowledge of the Powers, through the Ottoman Ambassador abroad, and also to communicate them to the Ambassadors here, and especially to the British Ambassador, upon whose assistance we are sure we can count to use his "bons offices" for an amicable solution of the question.

(Confidential.)

To a former Circular addressed on Thursday to the Powers through the Ottoman Ambassador abroad—

Austria has replied that the Foreign Minister will telegraph to Rome to learn the attitude of Italy, and he hopes for a satisfactory solution.

France.—Munir Bey telegraphs that the reply of France will be sent by courrière.

Germany.—The Foreign Minister says he is "grandement surpris," as he had learned from Rome that M. Prinetti thought the "incident clos." He would take steps in Rome to "mettre un terme à la situation," and would instruct the German Ambassador to use his good offices to arrive at a satisfactory solution.

Russia.—Husni Pasha telegraphs that the Foreign Minister has promised to telegraph to his Ambassador for information, as he had learned from Ambassadors in St. Petersburg and from Rome that the Italian Government thought the incident closed.

England.—Abdul Hak Hamid Bey telegraphs he has seen the Under-Secretary, who has promised to submit his representations to Lord Lansdowne, who was then away.

(Signed) ADAM BLOCK.

November 3, 1902.

No. 163.

Sir N. O'Connor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received November 10.)

(No. 490.)

My Lord,

Constantinople, November 4, 1902.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 473 of the 25th ultimo, I have the honour to report as follows.

Upon my refusal, as explained to your Lordship in my telegram No. 114 of the 30th ultimo, to accept the proposed note of the Porte respecting the Aden frontier, I was kept late into the night discussing the matter with the Grand Vizier and the Minister for Foreign Affairs. I was fortunate, however, in securing the acquiescence of both these high officials to the objections which I had raised, though both of them were equally reluctant to approach the Sultan, and without his approval the note, which was based on an Imperial Iradé, could not be altered. Finally, the Minister for Foreign Affairs undertook to represent the matter to the Sultan, and early next morning I got a message from his Excellency to say that he had succeeded in obtaining the Imperial sanction to the alterations I desired, and that he would call at the Embassy next day at 2 o'clock to submit the draft.

The draft seemed to me satisfactory in regard to the main points, namely, the withdrawal of the Ottoman troops and the delimitation of the frontier north-eastwards to the desert, and I told the Minister that I would accept it and wait for the note at the Embassy. His Excellency replied that he would return at once to his house and send

me the official communication in half-an-hour.] It was not, however, till about 5 o'clock next morning, the 1st November, that the note arrived. I have since learnt that the reason of the delay was that as it was not in accordance with the "Mazbata" of the Council of Ministers which had been sanctioned by the Sultan, His Majesty desired to cover himself by getting the signatures and seals of the Grand Vizier and the Minister for Foreign Affairs to the note as it now stood, and that communications to this effect went on during the night between the Palace and the Ministers.

I have the honour to inclose herewith to your Lordship the French text of the note, of which I telegraphed a translation last night, in order that our Commissioners on the frontier should be acquainted with its substance as soon as possible. As it will be well that the Commissioners should be able, if necessary, to confront the Turkish Delegates with the exact French text in case of any divergence between it and the orders received, I have ventured, also, to send General Maitland a copy by English steamer via Alexandria.

I have, &c.
(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

Inclosure in No. 163.

Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs to Sir N. O'Connor.

Sublime Porte, le 1^{er} Novembre, 1902.

L'AMBASSADE de Sa Majesté Britannique avait bien voulu s'adresser à la Sublime Porte pour demander la fixation et le jalonnement de la ligne de démarcation entre le Vilayet du Yémen et les neuf Cantons, ainsi que le retrait des troupes Impériales qui auraient été envoyées dernièrement à Djebel-Djahaf, Maghfari, Lekmet-ul-Selah, et Sahaf dans le voisinage du Canton d'Amiri.

Le Gouvernement Impérial, en vue d'arriver à un règlement amiable de la question, a décidé que les dits points seraient évacués quant à présent par les troupes Impériales pour que les Délégués des deux États puissent, après enquête, se prononcer sur la question de savoir de quel côté doivent rester ces points, afin qu'il soit agi en conséquence et que la délimitation soit faite tout d'abord vers le nord-est, c'est-à-dire vers le désert.

Si lors de la délimitation l'accord ne s'établit pas entre les dits Délégués, cette divergence sera résolue, après examen, entre les Gouvernements Ottoman et Britannique.

Cette décision, ayant été sanctionnée par Iradé Impérial, des instructions en conséquence ont été transmises aux autorités locales.

Le Ministère des Affaires Étrangères s'empresse de porter ce qui précède à la connaissance de l'Ambassade de Sa Majesté le Roi aux fins requises.

No. 164.

Sir N. O'Connor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received November 10.)

(No. 491.)

My Lord,

Constantinople, November 4, 1902.

WITH reference to my telegram No. 113 of the 29th ultimo, I have the honour to report that I took an early opportunity of mentioning to the Minister for Foreign Affairs that a rumour had reached us to the effect that the Imperial Ottoman troops contemplated occupying Ras-al-Ara, and I pointed out that this place was within the territory of the Subaihi tribe, who constituted one of the nine cantons, and that His Majesty's Government could not possibly allow this occupation to take place.

Tewfik Pasha said that he had no information whatever on the subject, but that he would at once make inquiries, although he was pretty sure that the rumour was without foundation.

I confess it seems to me most improbable that the Imperial Government will attempt anything so rash, particularly at a moment when we are insisting on their withdrawing their troops from places in the interior.

I also drew the Minister's attention to the reported contemplated aggression on

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Jebel Awas, in the Sheikh Ahmadi's district, and Amiri canton, mentioned in your Lordship's telegram No. 103 (repeating telegram from Resident at Aden 8th October, 1902).

Tewfik Pasha expressed his incredulity, but said he would make inquiries.

I have, &c.

(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

No. 165.

Sir R. Rodd to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received November 10.)

(No. 218.)

My Lord,

Rome, November 6, 1902.

WITH reference to my telegrams Nos. 69 and 71 of the 4th instant, I have the honour to inclose herewith copies and a translation of an official communication made to the Italian press, giving an account of the circumstances which led to the bombardment of Midi by Italian men-of-war.

I have, &c.

(Signed) RENNELL RODD.

Inclosure in No. 165.

Extract from the "Tribuna" of November 5, 1902.

(Translation.)

THE Italian Commander Arnone arrived here last week with the vessels "Piemonte," "Caprera," and "Galileo," having on board, besides a civil official of the Yemen, a Colonel, with Turkish troops under him.

As soon as he arrived, at the request of the local authorities, he disembarked the troops and three cannons, in order to impede the flight of the pirates, who were by this time nearly all concentrated here, while, at the same time, four Italian sambocks went into action on the sea.

The sambocks had to sustain an attack by the pirates, which they repulsed brilliantly, inflicting heavy losses on the pirates, the losses they themselves suffered consisting of two sailors killed, one of them a native, and one native sailor wounded.

The local authority then asked for a temporary suspension of hostilities, in order to hand over the pirates, which, in accordance with the declaration of the Italian Commander, he ought to have handed over within five days, and the Commander was ready to accede to the request on the condition that, besides the handing over of the pirates who had taken refuge in an inaccessible spot on the sea-board, an indemnity of 15,000 fr. should be paid by the inhabitants of the village for the families of the two sailors who had been killed.

These conditions not having been complied with, the Commander was obliged to open fire on the village, without molesting the Ottoman troops, and ceased firing as soon as the conditions had been accepted.

The suspension of hostilities granted by the Commander expires on the 11th November.

No. 166.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received November 10.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Lord George Hamilton, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of a telegram to the Viceroy, dated the 6th November, relative to the Aden delimitation.

India Office, November 8, 1902.

Inclosure in No. 166.

Lord G. Hamilton to Government of India.

(Telegraphic.) P.

India Office, November 6, 1902.

ADEN boundary.

O'Connor suggests that the British Commissioners should be furnished, as soon as possible, with the following translation of the exact text of the note received by him from Porte, dated the 1st November:—

"His British Majesty's Embassy has been so good as to address to the Porte a request for the determination and placing of pillars of the line of demarcation between the vilayet of the Yemen and the nine cantons, as well as the withdrawal of the Imperial troops sent recently to Jebel Jihaf, Mafari, Lakhmat-as-Saleh and Soheb, in the neighbourhood of the cantons of Amiri. With a view to arriving at an amicable solution of the question the Imperial Government have decided that the said points should be for the present evacuated by Imperial troops, in order that the Delegates of the two States may be able, after inquiry, to pronounce on the question on which side these points are to remain, so that action may be taken accordingly, and that delimitation may be carried on at once towards the north-east, that is to say, towards the desert. If, at the time of delimitation, the said Delegates do not come to an agreement, this divergence shall be settled after examination between the Ottoman and British Governments. This decision having been settled by Imperial Iradé, necessary instructions have been sent to the local authorities. Minister for Foreign Affairs hastens to bring the foregoing to the knowledge of the Embassy of His Majesty for the necessary action."

Instruct Resident to furnish Wahab with a copy.

No. 167.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received November 10.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Lord George Hamilton, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of a Secret despatch to the Government of India, dated the 7th instant, and inclosures, relative to the attempts of a former Vice-Consul at Zanzibar to induce a native of Zanzibar to assist in the production of an anti-English publication.

India Office, November 8, 1902.

Inclosure 1 in No. 167.

Lord G. Hamilton to Government of India.

(Secret.)

My Lord,

India Office, November 7, 1902.

I INCLOSE, for the information of your Excellency in Council, copies of letters from the Foreign Office dated the 29th October and the 6th November, with inclosures. I assume that the publication referred to in this correspondence is the same as that mentioned in Major Cox's letter dated the 21st April, 1900, and in General Creagh's letter dated the 27th May of the same year, addressed to the Government of Bombay. It will be observed that Salem Kemri reports that the leaflet was also sent to Kutch and Kurrachee, and it might be expedient to institute inquiries in those localities as to the extent of its circulation.

2. It appears that Salem Kemri is now at Aden, and, in view of the circumstances of the case, I think it is desirable that a formal recitation and declaration on oath of the charges and facts narrated should be made before a magistrate both by Dr. Young and Salem Kemri, and forwarded to me. I request your Excellency to give directions to that effect, and, to save time, I have caused a copy of this despatch to be sent to the Government of Bombay.

I have, &c.

(Signed) GEORGE HAMILTON.

Inclosure 2 in No. 167.

Foreign Office to India Office, October 29, 1902.

[Already printed.]

Inclosure 3 in No. 167.

Sir E. Monson to the Marquess of Lansdowne, October 22, 1902.

[Already printed.]

Inclosure 4 in No. 167.

Dr. Young to Sir E. Monson, October 8, 1902.

[Already printed.]

Inclosure 5 in No. 167.

Translation of Salem Keuri's Statement made by Dr. Young, Aden.

[Already printed.]

Inclosure 6 in No. 167.

Foreign Office to India Office, November 6, 1902.

[Already printed.]

Inclosure 7 in No. 167.

Sir E. Monson to the Marquess of Lansdowne, October 31, 1902.

[Already printed.]

No. 168.

Mr. Erskine to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received November 10.)

(No. 69.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

PERSO-AFGHAN frontier.

Tehran, November 10, 1902.

With reference to your Lordship's telegram No. 48 of the 4th October, I have been informed by the Persian Government that they agree to the appointment of a British Arbitrator, and to the final reference, if necessary, to your Lordship, subject to the condition that the decision must not be contrary to the Goldsmidt Award.

The Persian Government also propose to appoint a Persian Commissioner to consult with the British Arbitrator.

No. 169.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir N. O'Connor.

(No. 145.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Foreign Office, November 10, 1902.

A TELEGRAM has been received from the Commander-in-chief in the Mediterranean, reporting that on the 7th November His Majesty's ship "Speedy" left Malta for Suakin and Hodeida, where she would replace His Majesty's ship "Harrier," taking over duties in the suppression of the slave trade and piracy in the Red Sea.

Is it in your opinion desirable that instructions should be sent for the postponement of her visit to Hodeida?

No. 170.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received November 11.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Lord George Hamilton, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of a letter from the Resident, Aden, dated the 11th October, and inclosures, relative to the Aden Delimitation Commission.

India Office, November 10, 1902.

Inclosure 1 in No. 170.

Political Resident, Aden, to Lord G. Hamilton.

(Confidential.)

Aden Residency, October 11, 1902.

COPY of Colonel Wahab's Secret letter, dated Camp Dthala, 9th instant, forwarded with compliments, to the Secretary, Political and Secret Department, India Office, London. It covers the political diary of the Commission from the 30th September to the 8th October, 1902, inclusive.

(For Political Agent, Aden).

(Signed) R. S. POTTINGER, Captain.

NOTE.—Copies of the diary have been forwarded to the Government of India, Foreign Department, and the Government of Bombay.

Inclosure 2 in No. 170.

Diary.

(30th September to the 8th October, 1902, inclusive.)

September 30.—Seyid Muhammad Tahir Al Haud (see diary 26th) arranged a meeting with one of our Arab subordinates to explain that he bore no hostility towards us, but was obliged to keep in with the Turks for fear of being cut off from his property on Jabal Jihaf.

October 1.—Sheikh Nagi, of the Muffahai section of the Upper Yafa, who lives at Shuka, 5 miles north-east of Jalila, came in for medical treatment.

October 4.—Reported that Sheikh Saleh-az-Zandani, of Jabal Jihaf, has written on behalf of the Turks to the Sheikhs of the Ahmadi, Azraki, and Mihrabi, to arrange a meeting with the view to their entering into relations with the Turks.

Sheikh Husen-bin-Hassan Thabit-al-Humedi wrote that an agreement had been made between Sheikh Saleh-az-Zandani and Sheikh Tahir-al-Ahmadi for a Turkish garrison to occupy Jabal Awas, in the Ahmadi country.

Sheikhs Saiad Isma'il Thuer and Saleh Muthanna (see diary, 19th September) wrote proposing to bring in the Akils of Jalas, one of the four Shairi villages in Turkish occupation, and 2 miles north of Jalila. Replied that they had better keep quiet now, but that their friendly advances would be remembered.

[1565]

October 6.—Ascertained that Sheikhs Tahir and Abd-ar-Rab, of the Ahmadi, went to Jalila, where they were received and honourably entertained by the Commandant, and sent on to Kataba; also that they have consented to collect revenue for the Turks, receiving monthly stipends.

Received a letter from Sheikh-bin-Tahir-al-Ahmadi, reporting that his father and uncle had gone over to the Turks, that he heard they were coming to occupy the country with a Turkish garrison, and asking for advice and assistance. (This matter has been specially reported in my letter dated the 7th instant.)

October 7.—Ration convoy arrived from Aden.

Sheikhs Tahir and Abd-ar-Rab, of the Ahmadi, reported to have passed Dthala to-day on their return to Jabal Awas.

Six Turkish deserters have come in at different times during the week, five of them young handsmen from Jalila.

We are still without any intimation from the Turkish Commissioners that they have received the orders alleged to have been issued by the Porte on the 16th September. So far from taking any steps towards withdrawal, it will be seen that they are actively intriguing for a further advance.

(Secret.)

Camp Dthala, October 9, 1902.

Forwarded to the Resident at Aden for information.

(Signed) R. A. WAHAB, Colonel.

Commissioner, Aden Boundary Commission.

No. 171.

Hamid Bey to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received November 11.)

EN réponse à la note que Sir Thomas Sanderson lui a adressée le 6 Novembre courant au nom du Marquis de Lansdowne concernant la communication du Gouvernement Italien relative à l'incident de Midi, le Chargé d'Affaires de Turquie a l'honneur de porter à la haute connaissance de sa Seigneurie les observations suivantes de la part de la Sublime Porte:—

Les détails fournis par le Gouvernement Italien au Cabinet de Londres concernant la prétendue inaction des autorités Ottomanes sont loin d'être exacts.

Tout au contraire, les poursuites ordonnées contre les pirates avaient été dirigées avec une telle énergie que cinq des Ottomans avaient été grièvement blessés, et que le Commandant Italien avait envoyé à bord du "Nourilbahr" un de ses officiers pour prendre de leurs nouvelles et leur exprimer sa satisfaction.

Hamid Bey est du reste chargé par son Gouvernement de faire connaître à sa Seigneurie tous les autres détails concernant cette question.

Dans un de ses derniers entretiens avec l'Ambassadeur de Turquie à Rome le Sous-Secrétaire d'Etat Italien a accusé le Gouvernement Ottoman de n'avoir pas complètement exécuté ses engagements.

Comme cependant les autorités locales Ottomanes ont déployé tous leurs efforts pour satisfaire aux demandes du Commandant Italien la Sublime Porte a invité son Excellence Reshid Bey à répondre au Sous-Secrétaire d'Etat que s'il faisait allusion au contenu de l'Acte obtenu de force du Colonel Riza Bey le Gouvernement Impérial n'avait point, à bon droit, reconnu cette pièce et avait même transmis sans retard au Cabinet de Rome l'expression de ses objections légales à ce sujet. Mais s'il visait les engagements que le Gouvernement Impérial avait pris antérieurement ceux-ci, à l'exception de quelques points insignifiants, ont été exécutés. Ces engagements portaient sur les points suivants:—

Envoi d'une force armée à Midi et d'un Commissaire au bord du Commandant pour coopérer à la poursuite des pirates; arrestation des malfaiteurs en vue de leur punition; capture et destruction des sambouks; restitution en nature ou, à défaut, en argent, des objets volés; remise des fuyards indigènes au Commandant Italien; reconnaissance comme sujets Italiens des indigènes arrivant du côté ouest de la Mer Rouge par navires battant pavillon Italien.

Seul ce dernier point a dû être ajourné parce que M. Prinetti, en présence de certaines observations que le Gouvernement Ottoman avait formulées, s'était réservé de l'étudier.

Quant aux pirates qui n'ont pu être encore arrêtés, ils ne sont qu'au nombre de trois ou quatre, et s'ils ont réussi à se dérober aux poursuites c'est grâce au bombardement même de Midi au cours duquel ils ont pu s'échapper parmi les autres habitants qui fuyaient de tous côtés. Les recherches les plus actives vont être faites pour leur arrestation.

En ce qui concerne la pièce signée ultérieurement par Riza Bey, le Sous-Secrétaire d'Etat Italien a dit que cet officier était responsable de ses actes et qu'il ne pouvait dégager sa parole que s'il agissait énergiquement contre les pirates.

Mais cette façon d'envisager la question n'est pas admissible, attendu que Riza Bey, délégué auprès du Commandant Italien, n'était là que comme simple Commissaire pour coopérer à l'arrestation des pirates et n'avait aucun mandat ni autorisation pour signer un Acte quelconque engageant son Gouvernement.

Aussi le Gouvernement Impérial ne peut-il, comme il l'a déjà déclaré, considérer le dit Acte que comme nul et non avenu. Dans ses efforts de conciliation le Gouvernement Impérial vient de télégraphier à Reshid Bey de déclarer au Gouvernement Italien, tout en maintenant ses réserves les plus formelles concernant la question de la restitution du dit Acte, que le Gouvernement Impérial est prêt à payer cependant une indemnité de 6,500 réaux pour les Italiens tués ou blessés.

Malgré l'empressement avec lequel le Gouvernement Impérial a témoigné sa ferme volonté en vue d'une prompt solution de cette question le Gouvernement Italien, tout en se montrant animé du désir de maintenir ses relations avec la Sublime Porte, persiste dans son attitude et use de procédés qui constituent de véritables actes d'hostilité.

Hamid Bey est chargé de prier, dans ces graves circonstances, sa Seigneurie de prêter à la Sublime Porte son précieux appui auprès du Cabinet de Rome en vue du règlement de cette question conformément au bon droit réclamé par le Gouvernement Ottoman.

Ambassade Impériale de Turquie, Londres,
le 10 Novembre, 1902.

No. 172.

Sir N. O'Connor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received November 11.)

(No. 124.)

(Telegraphic) P.

Constantinople, November 11, 1902.

I SEE no objection to proposal contained in your Lordship's telegram No. 145 of the 10th instant to replace the "Harrier" by the "Speedy." Piracy, however, is not likely to be prevalent just now, as three more gun-boats, besides those mentioned in my despatch No. 492 of the 5th instant, are being dispatched by the Turks to the Red Sea.

No. 173.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir N. O'Connor.

(No. 332.)

Sir,

Foreign Office, November 11, 1902.

YOUR Excellency has kept me duly informed in your despatches and telegrams of the steps which you were taking to obtain compliance with the demands of His Majesty's Government in regard to the delimitation of the Aden frontier, and on the 1st instant I received with great satisfaction your telegram No. 115 reporting the success of your representations.

His Majesty's Government desire to convey to you their appreciation of the ability and energy which you have shown in dealing with this difficult question, and their entire approval of the manner in which you have conducted the negotiations with the Turkish Government.

I am, &c.
(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

No. 174.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received November 12.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Lord George Hamilton, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of inclosures in a letter from the Foreign Secretary, Simla, dated the 23rd October, relative to the movement of Turkish troops to Sheikh Saïd and towards Ras Ara.

India Office, November 11, 1902.

Inclosure 1 in No. 174.

Government of Bombay to Government of India.

(Confidential.)

Bombay Castle, October 16, 1902.

IN continuation of my telegram, dated the 13th instant, on the subject of a movement of Turkish troops to Sheikh Saïd and also towards Ras Ara, I am directed to forward copy of a letter, dated the 5th instant, from the Political Resident, Aden, and to say that his Excellency the Governor in Council would suggest that the rumours should be brought to the notice of the Home authorities, and, if necessary, an intimation be conveyed to the Ottoman Government that the Atifi country, including Ras-al-Arrah, is undoubtedly within the limits of the British Protectorate, and must be respected as such.

Inclosure 2 in No. 174.

Brigadier-General Maitland to Government of Bombay.

(Confidential.)

Aden, October 5, 1902.

I HAVE the honour to report that I have received information from several sources of a movement of Turkish troops to Sheikh Saïd, and also towards Ras Ara, the latter being well within the British Protectorate.

2. Captain Pears, R.N., Commanding His Majesty's ship "Perseus," reports that on the 3rd instant on his way back from Perim, he stopped off Ras Ara and sent boats to overhaul several dhows at anchor there. He made inquiries regarding the presence of Turkish troops or officials, but could learn nothing, except that some Turks were certainly at Turba. No signs of the presence of Turkish troops could be perceived.

3. We have learnt from native sources that a force estimated at 500 infantry, 30 cavalry, and a mule battery of screw guns, is now encamped in the old fort of Sheikh Saïd. They are said to have sunk eight or ten wells in which good water has been obtained.

4. Ali-bin-Ahmed, the Barhimi (Subaihi) Sheikh, has arrived in Aden. He confirms the report that Turkish troops have landed at Sheikh Saïd, and says that more are expected. A Turkish gun-boat is patrolling between Mokha and Sheikh Saïd (presumably with a view to prevent the importation of arms).

5. Turkish emissaries are said to be going out among the Atifis, and are making inquiries as to the boundary on the west of the Subaihis right up to the Homar country.

6. The Turks allege that they are going to build a lighthouse at Ras Ara, and the people think that this may really be the case, as the Turks have built other lighthouses in the Red Sea.

7. It is further stated that the Turkish officials have sent to Ahmed Saleh, the Atifi Sheikh, to come and meet them, and Ali-bin-Ahmed says that they have probably written to him and the other tribes (regarding the boundary?), but that he (Ali-bin-Ahmed) warned his relatives to have nothing to say to the Turks until he could find out from us what reply to give.

No. 175.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received November 12.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Lord George Hamilton, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of inclosures in a letter from the Foreign Secretary, Simla, dated the 9th ultimo, relative to piracies in the Persian Gulf.

India Office, November 12, 1902.

Inclosure 1 in No. 175.

Lieutenant-Colonel Kemball to Government of India.

Sir,

Shiraz, September 13, 1902.

IN continuation of the correspondence ending with your letter dated the 6th February last, I have the honour to report, for the information of the Government of India, the recrudescence of acts of piracy, in the vicinity of El Katr and Bahrein, committed by a party of Beni-Hajir Arabs, under the leadership of one Ahmed-bin-Selman, a notorious bad character.

2. Early in July this man succeeded in stealing a boat from Seihat; but stress of weather on the 19th July drove him back to a point north of Ojair, on hearing which the inhabitants of Seihat sent an armed boat party against him, obliging him to abandon his craft and flee ashore.

3. Some days later Ahmed and his gang stole a boat at Senabis, with which they crossed to the Island of Um Nasan, and on the 4th August captured a Bahrein dhow of 28 tons burthen, which was lying there to load lime for Bahrein, by means of which dhow, some ten days later, they waylaid and robbed another Bahrein boat, off Thaaein, in the Katr Peninsula, of its entire gear and utensils, as well as of cash and pearls, the property of a trader on board, to the total value of some 5,400 dollars, and then proceeded to Dohat Thalun, in Thahrar, south of Katif, in Turkish territory, where they landed with their plunder.

4. The Assistant Political Agent, Bahrein, informs me that Ahmed-bin-Selman, of whose nationality I am not yet aware, had been residing recently at Sweisima, in El Katr territory, where his family now is, and these piracies seem to have occurred in El Katr waters, while some of the property plundered from the first Bahrein boat was disposed of at places under the jurisdiction of the Sheikh of El Katr, it seems a case to apply the orders conveyed in paragraph 3 of your letter above quoted, and I have instructed the Assistant Political Agent accordingly, who, I may mention, had already warned Sheikh Ahmed-bin-Thani that he would be held responsible, and had also requested the Kaïmakam of Katif to co-operate in suppressing Ahmed and his gang.

5. His Britannic Majesty's Consul at Bussorah has been requested to move the Wali to send strict orders to his subordinates to take energetic measures, and informs me that he has done so, and the Senior Naval Officer, Persian Gulf, is arranging, at my request, to depute a gun-boat to Bahrein with a view to concerting measures, either by means of a boat expedition or otherwise, to put down this gang.

6. I have not considered it advisable to accede to a request of Sheikh Isa, of Bahrein, that he might be permitted to dispatch an expedition against Ahmed, owing to the probability that the pursuit would lead the Bahreinese into Turkish waters and possibly into Turkish territories, and thus produce inconvenient complications.

I have, &c.

(Signed) C. A. KEMBALL,

Officiating Political Resident in the Persian Gulf.

Inclosure 2 in No. 175.

Lieutenant-Colonel Kemball to Government of India.

Sir, *Bushire, September 22, 1902.*
 IN continuation of this Office letter, dated the 13th instant, regarding the acts of piracy committed by Arabs under the leadership of Ahmed-bin-Selman, I have the honour to forward, for the information of the Government of India, copy of a letter which I have received from His Britannic Majesty's Consul, Bussorah, on the subject.
 I have, &c.
 (For Political Resident in the Persian Gulf),
 (Signed) VERE HUNT, Captain,
First Assistant.

Inclosure 3 in No. 175.

Consul Wratishlaw to Lieutenant-Colonel Kemball.

Sir, *Bussorah, September 12, 1902.*
 IN reply to Captain Hunt's letters of the 18th August and 1st September concerning the piracies of Ahmed-bin-Selman off the coast of Katif, I have the honour to inclose herewith copies of two letters I have addressed to the Vali of Bussorah on the subject, and also a translation of his Excellency's reply.
 I hear that the Turkish gun-boat "Kilid-el-Bahr" is shortly to be sent down the Arab coast; but so decrepit a vessel, even if she eventually starts, can be of but little use for the prevention of piracy. The fact is that the local Turkish Government seems quite unable to maintain order either by land or sea in the districts for which it is responsible.

I have, &c.
 (Signed) A. C. WRATISLAW.

Inclosure 4 in No. 175.

Consul Wratishlaw to Mustafa Nouri Pasha.

Sir, *Bussorah, August 22, 1902.*
 FROM information received from the British Agent in the Island of Bahrein, it appears that a notorious outlaw, named Ahmed-bin-Selman, has collected a band of Bedouins from the Katif district and is committing piracies in those waters. He is actually in possession of a large Bahrein sailing-vessel, which he captured at the Island of Um Nasan. It is very necessary that he should be captured.
 The British Agent has already communicated with the Kaimakam of Katif about this matter, and I beg that your Excellency will also send the necessary instructions to the spot.

Inclosure 5 in No. 175.

Consul Wratishlaw to Mustafa Nouri Pasha.

Sir, *Bussorah, September 3, 1902.*
 WITH reference to my letter to your Excellency of the 22nd August, I have the honour to inform your Excellency that the pirate, Ahmed-bin-Selman, has employed the vessel which he captured at Um Nasan in the capture of another Bahrein boom near Thaein, from which he looted money and pearls to the value of 5,400 rupees.
 After committing this crime, the pirates are reported to have returned to Dohat Thalam, in Thahrar, south of Katif, and to have landed the stolen property in Turkish territory.
 Considering that the previous piracies referred to in my letter of the 10th

December, 1901, still remain unpunished, I beg that your Excellency will kindly inform me whether the resources at the disposal of the local Turkish authorities are sufficient to insure the arrest and punishment of these malefactors, or whether it is desirable that a British vessel of war should be sent to assist in maintaining the security of the coast of Katif.

Inclosure 6 in No. 175.

Mustafa Nouri Pasha to Consul Wratishlaw.

(Translation.) *24th*, 1318 (*September 6, 1902*).
 HAVING read your letter of the 3rd instant, I beg to say that, on receipt of your letter of the 22nd August, the necessary communications were made to the Governor of Nejd, and that, on receipt of reply to a second and urgent message to him, pointing out the serious nature of the question, the vilayet will take the necessary steps and endeavour to procure the restitution of the stolen property and the punishment of the delinquents. I beg to add that there is no need to send a steamer to help in the matter, thanks to the protecting arm of the Padishah.
 (Sent to His Majesty's Resident and Consul-General, Bushire, with the compliments of the Undersigned.)

No. 176.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received November 12.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Lord George Hamilton, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copies of inclosures in a letter from the Foreign Secretary, Simla, dated the 23rd October, relative to the boundary of the Haushabi country.

India Office, November 12, 1902.

Inclosure 1 in No. 176.

Government of Bombay to Government of India.

(Confidential.) *Bombay Castle, October 4, 1902.*
 I AM directed to forward herewith, for the information of the Government of India, copy of a Confidential letter from the Political Resident, Aden, dated the 19th September last, regarding the information elicited by him from the Haushabi Sultan, in a recent interview, as to the boundaries between his country and Turkish territory; and to request that thirteen copies of the sketch map which accompanies the Political Resident's letter may be furnished to this Office when it is printed for the Government of India's Proceedings.

Inclosure 2 in No. 176.

Lieutenant-Colonel Abud to Government of Bombay.

(Confidential.) *Aden, September 19, 1902.*
 I HAVE the honour to inform you that during the interview I had yesterday with the Haushabi Sultan, reported in my letter of to-day's date, I took the opportunity to elicit from him a statement of what he considers to be the boundaries between his country and the Turks.
 2. I attach a tracing taken from Wahab's $\frac{1}{4}$ -inch map, on which I have marked the boundary he claims. As far as I am aware, he claims little if anything more than he is now in possession of, and under ordinary circumstances there should be little or no difficulty in demarcating this portion of the frontier.
 3. I could obtain but little information of what our boundary should be from Jabal

Kubati, but it would appear that it should run nearly due west of Jabal Kubati to the eastern slopes of Jabal Kala, and thence nearly due south to the Zureki border. From this point the boundary turns westward into the part of the country marked in Wahab's $\frac{1}{4}$ -inch survey map as "unsurveyed ground;" but until this part of the boundary to the sea has actually been surveyed, it is impossible to state with any degree of accuracy where the boundary should actually run.

Inclosure 3 in No. 176.

Tracing.

[Not printed.]

No. 177.

Sir N. O'Connor to the Marquess of Lansdowne. — (Received November 12.)

(No. 128.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Constantinople, November 12, 1902.

I AM informed by Mr. Babington Smith that Arabs are daily attacking the important salt works of the Public Debt at Salif near Cameran; that the manager, Mr. Cawdray, is a British subject; and that there will be considerable loss of property and probably of life.

He considers that the moral effect alone of the presence of a British ship at Salif would be useful, and he asks if His Majesty's ship "Harrier" could conveniently pay a visit there.

No. 178.

Memorandum communicated to M. Cambon.

M. CAMBON made a representation on the 30th July last on the subject of the pressure which is alleged to have been brought to bear by the British Agency and Consulate-General at Zanzibar on the owners of Arabian dhows to induce them to fly the British flag. The representation had special reference to the case of the Suri dhow "Sahala."

Neither the Acting Consul-General nor any member of the staff of the Agency and Consulate-General at Zanzibar has any recollection of the application which is supposed to have been made there by Mbaruk-bin-Said-el-Ghila, the owner of the dhow in question, and a search through the Consular registers has established the fact that no authority to fly the British flag has been issued within the last two years either to a person of that name or to any native vessel called "Sahala."

An application to the Zanzibar Port Office has, however, elicited the information that a licence to fly the Sultan's flag was granted on the 7th January, 1901, to a dhow named "Sahala" on payment of a fee of 10 rupees. The owner's name is Mbaruk-bin-Said Zenebi, and he is evidently the person referred to by the French Consul at Muscat.

The XXXIInd Article of the Brussels Act provides that authority to fly the flag of one of the Powers parties to the Act shall only be granted to such native vessels as satisfy the following, among other, conditions:—Their fitters-out or owners must be either subjects of or persons protected by the Power whose flag they claim to fly. Mbaruk was a subject of the Sultan of Muscat; but the officers of the Sultan of Zanzibar considered that Zanzibar and Muscat were so intimately connected that they were to be considered as one for purposes of nationality. Mbaruk's national status did not, however, strictly fulfil the conditions required by the Act, and he was not properly qualified to receive permission to use the Zanzibar flag. The requisite steps have, therefore, been taken to prevent the recurrence of such an irregularity.

The "Sahala" had been sold at Zanzibar, and Mbaruk, the new owner, voluntarily applied for a Zanzibar licence, and as he did not reside in Zanzibar and possessed no real estate within the Sultan's dominions, the guarantee required by Article XXXII of the Brussels Act was furnished by a well-known Arab named Abdullah-bin-Nasir.

*Foreign Office,
November 12, 1902.*

No. 179.

Foreign Office to India Office.

Sir,

Foreign Office, November 12, 1902.

WITH reference to your letter of the 6th ultimo, relative to the question of the acquisition of real property by foreigners in Muscat, I am directed by the Marquess of Lansdowne to transmit to you a copy of a despatch from His Majesty's Consul at Muscat,* submitting for approval a copy of a Notification which he has issued with regard to certain Regulations made by him under "The Muscat Order in Council, 1867," in respect of the registration of transfers of real property from or to British subjects or British-protected persons.

It will be observed that in the wording of the Notification the incorrect expression, "British-protected subjects," has been used. This term would imply that there are two classes of British subjects, one of which is protected and the other not; whereas the distinction which it was intended to emphasize was that existing between British subjects, on the one hand, and, on the other, "British-protected persons," the latter not being British subjects, but persons who, although not possessed of British nationality, are yet afforded British protection.

On the 16th February, 1901, Lord Lansdowne transmitted to Major Cox, for his information and guidance, printed instructions respecting the issue of Regulations, &c., under Orders in Council, which had been drawn up in this Department for the guidance of His Majesty's Consular officers, with a view to insuring harmony and regularity in dealing with these matters.

Copies of these instructions, and of the Muscat Order in Council of 1867, are inclosed herewith.†

Major Cox acknowledged the receipt of the instructions in a despatch dated the 16th March, 1901; but it will be observed that he has not followed them in drawing up his Notification.

An amended draft Notice, framed in accordance with the instructions, has been prepared in this Department, and is transmitted herewith.‡

Lord Lansdowne proposes, if Lord George Hamilton concurs, to transmit it to Major Cox, with instructions to make, whilst preserving its form, any alterations in its language which he may consider desirable, and afterwards to submit it for the approval of the Secretary of State, following the procedure prescribed in the instructions.

Under Article 2 of the Muscat Order in Council the Notification already issued by Major Cox will remain in force until disallowed by the Secretary of State. Lord Lansdowne's disallowance will be signified to Major Cox when his Lordship's approval of the new Notice is communicated to him.

Lord Lansdowne proposes to instruct Major Cox to be careful in future in issuing Regulations, &c., under the Muscat Order in Council; to be guided by the General Instructions, of which a copy was sent to him on the 16th February, 1901.

I am, &c.
(Signed) T. H. SANDERSON.

* No. 30.

† Instructions for issue of King's Regulations, Foreign Office, &c., February 1, 1901; Muscat Order in Council, 1867.

‡ Amended draft Notice.

[1565]

No. 180.

Foreign Office to India Office.

(Confidential.)

Sir,

Foreign Office, November 13, 1902.

WITH reference to my letter of the 21st July last and previous correspondence, I am directed by the Marquess of Lansdowne to transmit to you a copy of a letter from the Admiralty in regard to the action to be taken by the British naval authorities in the event of a Russian occupation of some point on the Persian Gulf.*

It will be seen that the instructions which were prepared in 1900 for the guidance of the Senior Naval Officer in the Persian Gulf in such a contingency were never sent to him. The assumption in the subsequent correspondence between this Department and the India Office, that the Senior Naval Officer was in possession of the instructions referred to, was consequently due to a misapprehension.

In these circumstances the Admiralty inquire whether, in Lord Lansdowne's opinion, it would be desirable that the Senior Naval Officer should be furnished with the original instructions, for his guidance in a possible future contingency, or whether it would be sufficient to explain the position to the Commander-in-chief on the East Indies Station.

Lord Lansdowne would suggest, for the consideration of the Secretary of State for India, that, pending the result of the Conference which is to consider the general question of the military and naval policy of His Majesty's Government in Southern Persia, it might be desirable to defer the issue of instructions to the British naval authorities a little longer, and that the Admiralty should be informed accordingly.

I am, &c.

(Signed) T. H. SANDERSON.

No. 181.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received November 14.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Lord George Hamilton, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of a letter from the Resident, Aden, dated the 23rd October, and inclosures, relative to the Aden Delimitation Commission.

India Office, November 13, 1902.

Inclosure 1 in No. 181.

Political Resident, Aden, to India Office.

(Confidential.)

Aden Residency, October 23, 1902.

COPY of Colonel Wahab's letter, Secret, dated Camp Dthala, 14th instant, forwarded, with compliments, to the Secretary, Political and Secret Department, India Office, London. It covers the political diary of the Commission from the 9th to the 14th October last, inclusive.

(For Political Resident, Aden),

(Signed) R. S. POTTINGER, Captain.

Note.—Copies of the diary have been forwarded to the Government of India, Foreign Department, and the Government of Bombay.

Inclosure 2 in No. 181.

Diary, October 9 to 14, 1902.

9th October.—Sheikh Awas-al-Ahmadi sent a letter received by his father, Sheikh Tahir, from Sheikh Saleh-az-Zendani, of Jihaf, on behalf of the Turks, inviting them both to a meeting.

It is rumoured that the Turks intend occupying, with Turkish troops, Al Haud (at foot of Jihaf, west of Dthala), the Humedi, Ahmadi, and Mihrabi countries, the Mashwara Pass, and Ad Dthubiyat.

10th October.—Interviewed Sheikh Saleh Muthanna, of the Shairi village of Lakamat-al-Hajfar, near Jalela. He complains that the Turks, at Muhammad Muthanna's instigation, sent their horses and mules to graze on his crops and grass.

11th October.—The Amir of Dthala continues to absent himself on account of the situation here. In his absence, his son Nasir informs us that it is usual for the Amir to make a tour of the villages at this time with an armed following to assess the crops before giving permission for reaping to commence. He asked if he might go to Al Husen, 8 miles to the north, for this purpose. Told him he had better send an official quietly.

12th October.—Convoy, with treasure and rations, arrived from Aden.

13th October.—Interviewed Sheikh Salah, Shaiya, and Hassan of the Azraki. Sheikh Hassan gave us the letter which he received from Saleh-az-Zendani, inviting him to a meeting. They protested their loyalty, and repeated the rumour of the intended Turkish advance.

14th October.—Convoy started for Aden.

A report has reached us that a party of seventy Turks from Sheikh Saïd recently visited Ras-el-Ara mounted on mules, and summoned Sheikh Ahmad Saleh, of the Atifi. He refused to go, but his cousin, Fara Saleh, went with the Turks back to Sheikh Saïd. Colonel Hakki Bey, who was till recently Commandant at Kataba and Jalela, and was the active agent in the encroachments on Dthala territory, is believed to be now at Sheikh Saïd.

Reaping is in active progress, and the crops are good.

(Secret.)

Camp Dthala, October 14, 1902.

Forwarded to the Resident at Aden for information.

(Signed)

R. A. WAHAB, Colonel, Commissioner
Aden Boundary Commission.

No. 182.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir N. O'Connor.

(No. 150.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Foreign Office, November 14, 1902.

I HAVE received your telegram No. 128 of the 12th instant.

His Majesty's ship "Harrier" is believed to be now at Berbera, and we could no doubt send to Salif either her or some other vessel.

As it is most necessary that definite instructions should be sent to Commanding Officer, I should be glad to have your suggestions.

In the opinion of the Admiralty, no action should be taken beyond protection of life and property of British subjects, supported, if necessary, by ship's guns, but men should, under no circumstances, be landed. It should be clearly understood that the visit is desired by Turkish Government, and that any support Commanding Officer thinks right to give would be welcomed by them.

No. 183.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir N. O'Connor.

(No. 342.)

Sir,

Foreign Office, November 14, 1902.

I HAVE received your Excellency's despatch No. 487 of the 4th instant, informing me that in consequence of your representations, the piratical sambouks recently captured by a Turkish gun-boat near Hodeidah have been destroyed.

I have learnt with great satisfaction the result of the steps which you took in the matter.

I am, &c.

(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

No. 184.

The Earl of Cromer to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received November 15.)

(No. 97. Commercial.)

My Lord,

Cairo, November 6, 1902.

WITH reference to my telegram No. 19, Commercial, of to-day's date, I have the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith copy of a note which has been prepared for the Financial Adviser by M. de Rocca Serra, Legal Adviser to the Egyptian Government, explaining the view held by that Government since 1873 in regard to their commercial autonomy.

I have, &c.

(Signed) CROMER.

Inclosure in No. 184.

*Note by M. Serra respecting Egyptian Commercial Autonomy.**Note pour M. le Conseiller Financier.*

LE Firman du 8 Juin, 1873, dispose :—

“Le Khédive est autorisé à renouveler et à contracter sans porter atteinte aux Traités Politiques de ma Sublime Porte des Conventions avec les Agents des Puissances étrangères pour les douanes et le commerce. . . .”

La Porte se dessaisissait formellement de ses droits, en matière de douane et de commerce; l'Égypte obtenait en cette matière une autonomie absolue, sous la seule réserve de respecter les Traités de Commerce alors en cours; car la Porte ne pouvait déroger à ces Traités, sans le consentement des Puissances Contractantes. Ces Traités devaient donc continuer à produire leurs effets en Égypte jusqu'à leur expiration régulière; mais, s'ils viennent à être renouvelés, les nouveaux Traités ne sont plus exécutoires en territoire Égyptien: l'Égypte a seule le droit de les renouveler, et la Sublime Porte ne peut plus stipuler au nom de l'Égypte.

Par le Firman de 1873, susvisé, la situation de l'Égypte vis-à-vis des Puissances en matière douanière et commerciale se trouve ainsi établie: si ces Puissances n'ont pas de Convention avec la Sublime Porte, le droit de réglementation de l'Égypte est absolu; si, au contraire, il s'agit de Puissances ayant un Traité en cours à la dite date, elles sont autorisées à se prévaloir en Égypte des dispositions de ces Conventions, mais seulement jusqu'à leur expiration, après laquelle l'Égypte reprend vis-à-vis d'elles son absolue liberté d'action, sans qu'elles puissent invoquer en Égypte le bénéfice de nouveaux Traités qu'elles auraient pu conclure avec la Sublime Porte seule.

En résumé, le régime douanier et commercial Égyptien est le régime de droit commun: il est applicable à toutes les Puissances qui n'avaient pas en 1873 de Traités avec la Sublime Porte, ou dont les Traités ne seraient plus actuellement en vigueur en Turquie. Les Conventions Turques postérieures à 1873 ne sont plus opposables à l'Égypte.

C'est la thèse soutenue en tout temps par le Gouvernement Égyptien. Toutes les fois que l'occasion s'en est présentée le Ministère des Affaires Étrangères, dans ses

communications verbales et écrites, n'a cessé de l'affirmer devant les Représentants des Puissances, et, malgré les réserves ou les objections qu'elle a pu soulever de la part de certains Agents Diplomatiques, ne l'a jamais formellement abandonnée.

La question est donc toujours réservée.

En ce qui concerne la Perse particulièrement, son Excellence Tigrane Pacha répondait aux prétentions du Consul-Général :—

“C'est en vertu de cette autonomie qu'à moins d'une nouvelle entente directe entre les deux pays, le Gouvernement Khédivial, à l'expiration de la Convention actuelle, reprendrait son entière liberté d'action sans qu'on puisse lui opposer les arrangements intervenus ou à intervenir entre l'Empire et la Perse.”

Le Consul-Général de Perse répondit en protestant; mais plus tard, à la suite de la prorogation, pour une durée de vingt-deux ans, du monopole du tabac Persan, il déclara formellement par écrit retirer toutes ses protestations et réserves antérieures.

No. 185.

Sir R. Rodd to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received November 15.)

(No. 223.)

My Lord,

Rome, November 12, 1902.

I CONGRATULATED the Minister for Foreign Affairs this afternoon, at his weekly reception, on the successful solution of the difficulties which had arisen with the Turkish Government in consequence of the steps which the Italian Government had been compelled to take for the repression of piracy in the Red Sea. His Excellency, in thanking me, observed that there had been some difficulty in convincing the Turkish Government that they had no ulterior motives beyond the punishment of the guilty parties and the indemnification for losses caused by acts of piracy; but once this had been made clear by the demands that were formulated, there had been little trouble about coming to terms. The conditions, copy and translation of which, as officially communicated to the press, I have the honour to inclose herewith, are set forth in five Articles.

One other point had been dealt with at the same time, namely, the treatment of Erythraean sambouks touching ports on the Arabian coast. The Porte, M. Prinetti said, was not prepared to make any specific declaration which would imply the renunciation of sovereignty over the Italian Red Sea Colonies, but had given a definite promise that the treatment accorded to sambouks from Erythraea should, in practice, be the same as that granted to vessels of any other nation enjoying most-favoured-nation treatment, in analogous circumstances. This practically conceded all that Italy required.

I said to his Excellency that the Turkish Government appeared at one time to hope that they would be able to count on the friendly offices of another Government in obtaining a solution more in conformity with the spirit of the protest they had communicated to the Powers.

M. Prinetti replied that the Sultan had, as a matter of fact, telegraphed personally to the German Emperor, begging him to use his influence in such a sense. Neither this, nor any of the appeals made to other Powers, however, appeared to have received encouragement. The German Ambassador in Rome had confined his action to making inquiries as to the actual facts of the case.

I have, &c.

(Signed) RENNELL RODD.

Inclosure in No. 185.

Extract from the "Tribuna" of November 11, 1902.

(Translation.)

THE SOLUTION.—In regard to the repression of piracy in the Red Sea, on account of which Commander Arnone took action, a complete agreement has been concluded between the Italian Government and the Sublime Port on the following bases :—

1. All the pirate sambouks at present being blockaded in the neighbourhood of Midi will be destroyed, where this has not already been done, or the sambouks have not already come into the possession of Commander Arnone.

[1565]

2. The Turkish authorities formally pledge themselves to inflict exemplary punishment on the above-mentioned Turkish pirates.

3. Further, the Sublime Porte formally undertakes to hand over within two months, at Massowah, such pirates of Erythraean origin as are designated by Commander Arnone, and have not already been arrested.

4. The Sublime Porte finally undertakes formally to repress piracy in the future with the utmost energy.

5. An indemnity of 15,000 fr. will be paid to the families of the two sailors killed at Midi, and another indemnity of 19,600 dollars will be paid as compensation for damages previously inflicted on the Erythraean Administration by the pirates.

Further, in regard to the treatment of Erythraean sambouks, they will from henceforth be placed upon the same footing as any other most-favoured-nation vessel in analogous circumstances.

Further, Commander Arnone will be repaid, on the basis of an estimate made by the Italian Consul at Hodeida, such sums as have been overpaid in the past by Erythraean sambouks.

In conformity with this agreement arrived at between the two Governments, Commander Arnone has received orders to take the necessary measures, in concert with the local authorities, for its prompt execution.

This done, Commander Arnone, his mission being completed, will take back to Massowah the armed Erythraean vessels and sambouks under his command, together with the captured pirate sambouks.

No. 186.

Sir E. Monson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received November 15.)

(No. 418. Confidential.)

My Lord,

Paris, November 13, 1902.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 387 of the 22nd ultimo, respecting the case of Salem Kemri, the Arab who was subjected to ill-treatment and imprisonment in a lunatic asylum by M. Piat, of the French Consular Service, I have the honour to inclose copy of a despatch from Mr. Inglis, His Majesty's Consul-General at Paris, inclosing a letter which he had received from the latter gentleman replying to an inquiry as to Salem Kemri's effects, detained by him, and as to the servant, a young negro named Bachir, who accompanied Salem Kemri from Aden to Europe.

M. Piat states that he is ready to deliver to Mr. Inglis the effects in question which were left with him on the 17th July last as soon as he is repaid the sums (amounting to more than 1,000 fr., or 40*l.*) which Salem Kemri owes him for advances made for his journey expenses from Aden to Paris, and for loans received by him both at Aden and Marseilles for purchasing an outfit before arriving at Paris.

With regard to the servant, M. Piat states that since Salem Kemri's departure he has retained the boy as groom.

M. Piat proceeds to explain that this boy Bachir is a native of Abyssinia, that he is 15 years of age, and that he was carried off by slave dealers from his parents in that country, conveyed to Aden, and there sold to a purchaser acting for the Sultan of Lahadj; that he was "lent" by the latter to Salem Kemri and brought to France in the month of May last.

M. Piat goes on to say that Bachir, on landing in France, recovered, *ipso facto*, his liberty, and is now in the way of gaining an honest livelihood!

M. Piat's letter continues as follows:—

"The history of the capture of this unfortunate negro is heart-rending. It adds another sad chapter to the lamentable collection of episodes relating to the Slave Traffic and slavery in East Africa gathered by me in the course of my different visits to Zanzibar. I could not, therefore, in conscience—and I hope you will approve me—consent to surrender this poor child to one who wants to sell him again. I have, in fact, in my possession letters addressed by a person belonging to the Sultan of Lahadj's staff (*entourage*) to Salem Kemri, which reached me while the latter was being treated at Saint Anne's (Asylum), which prove that he had, upon several occasions, urgently requested the authorization of the Sultan to rid himself of the poor Bachir."

I have given the latter portion of M. Piat's letter *in extenso* as it will serve to show your Lordship what manner of man he must be; but it does seem to require an almost incredible amount of effrontery on his part to write to His Majesty's Consul-General what

amounts to a deliberate insinuation that the Slave Trade is encouraged at Zanzibar, and that slaves can be bought and sold at Aden.

I shall give no instruction to Mr. Inglis as to making any further communication to M. Piat until I receive your Lordship's orders; but I can hardly believe that the goods and chattels belonging to Salem Kemri, and now in M. Piat's possession, can be worth more than a very small proportion of the money he claims.

I have been much interested by the information which I have found in the sections of the Confidential print which reached me yesterday relating to the printing and circulation of the newspaper entitled the "Eye-opener." I had no previous knowledge on this subject, nor had I any idea that such a systematic underhand campaign against Great Britain in the east was being conducted under French (official) auspices.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

Inclosure 1 in No. 186.

Consul-General Inglis to Sir E. Monson.

Sir,

Paris, November 11, 1902.

WITH further reference to your Excellency's despatch of the 3rd instant, I have the honour to report that, in accordance with the instructions therein contained, I wrote to M. Piat requesting him to be good enough to inform me if certain effects belonging to Salem Kemri were in his possession, and, if so, when it would be convenient to him to cause them to be delivered to me.

I now beg to inclose, for your Excellency's information, a letter, dated the 10th instant, which I have received from M. Piat, stating that he is ready to hand over Salem Kemri's effects on payment of some 1,000 fr. alleged to be due to him for money advanced and for passage from Aden to Paris.

With regard to Kemri's servant, M. Piat states that he is still in his service as groom.

I beg to add that I propose to forward to Dr. Young a copy of M. Piat's letter, in order that it may be communicated to Salem Kemri.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. P. INGLIS.

Inclosure 2 in No. 186.

M. Piat to Consul-General Inglis.

Monsieur,

Paris, le 10 Novembre, 1902.

EN réponse à votre lettre du 8 de ce mois, je m'empresse de vous faire savoir que je tiens à votre disposition les effets laissés chez moi par Salem Kemri le 17 Juillet dernier (lorsque, sur l'avis formel de deux médecins, il a fallu le placer en observation à l'Asile Clinique de Ste.-Anne) contre le remboursement des sommes s'élevant à plus de 1,000 fr. qu'il me doit pour avances que je lui ai faites de ses frais de voyage d'Aden à Paris et de prêts d'argent qu'il a touchés tant à Aden qu'à Marseilles pour se constituer une garde-robe avant d'arriver à Paris.

Je me trouve chez moi l'après-midi tous les jours de 2 à 4 heures. Quant au "domestique" dont Salem demande l'adresse, il est depuis le départ de son maître pour Aden à mes gages comme groom. Ce jeune nègre, nommé Bachir, est Abyssin; il a une quinzaine d'années et a été enlevé à ses parents en Abyssinie par des négriers, qui l'ont, d'après ce qu'il déclare, transporté à Aden, où il a été acheté pour le compte du Sultan de Lahadj. Prêté par celui-ci à Salem, il a été amené en France fin Mai dernier. Par le seul fait de son débarquement sur le territoire Français, Bachir a reconquis sa liberté. Il est aujourd'hui en état de gagner honnêtement sa vie. L'histoire de la capture de ce malheureux nègre est navrante. Elle ajoute un bien triste chapitre au recueil lamentable des épisodes récoltés par moi sur la traite de l'esclavage dans l'Est-Africain au cours de mes différents séjours à Zanzibar. Je ne pourrais donc, en conscience —et j'espère que vous m'approuverez—consentir à livrer un pauvre enfant à celui qui a l'intention de le vendre de nouveau. J'ai, en effet, en ma possession des lettres adressées par

une personne de l'entourage du Sultan de Lahadj à Salem, qui me sont parvenues pendant qu'il était en traitement à Ste.-Anne, et qui prouvent qu'il a, à différentes reprises, sollicité instamment du Sultan de Lahadj l'autorisation de se défaire du pauvre Bachir.

Veuillez, &c.
(Signé) E. PIAT.

No. 187.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received November 15.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Lord George Hamilton, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of telegrams from the Resident, Aden, dated the 11th and 12th November, relative to the Aden Delimitation Commission.

India Office, November 14, 1902.

Inclosure 1 in No. 187.

Resident, Aden, to India Office.

(Telegraphic.) P.

November 11, 1902.

FOLLOWING message from Wahab is transmitted:—

"Turkish Commissioner, owing to mistake in transmission of the name, declined to evacuate Jabal Suheb without further reference to the Porte. He has promised to withdraw from Mafari and Jihaf. It is desirable that British Ambassador should explain the Turkish post indicated is Jabal Shahad or Suheb, immediately south-east of Jalela."

It appears from Wahab's letter that Turkish Commissioners will not go beyond the actual letter of their instructions regarding the withdrawal of their regular troops. They refuse to re-establish the *status quo*, and demand that until the final decision has been arrived at by Government, the present status should be maintained. Wahab has agreed to this demand, and to a proposal to postpone the completion of the survey of disputed tract.

It follows that Amir of Dthali will continue to be excluded from his territory which the Turks took forcible possession of after it had been decided to demarcate; also that the map to form the basis of information for the two Governments will have to be completed from existing maps. The Turkish Commissioner, moreover, denies that Yaffai and Aulaki are among the nine tribes, and continues to claim Shairi country as Turkish. Until these claims are yielded it seems impossible that demarcation north-eastwards can be begun; and until the Dthali boundary has been settled, it will be difficult to find the starting point for this demarcation.

I am telegraphing separately to Government of Bombay, submitting some suggestions.

(Repeated to Bombay.)

Inclosure 2 in No. 187.

Resident, Aden, to Governor of Bombay.

(Telegraphic.) P.

November 12, 1902.

WITH reference to facts indicated in my telegram of 11th, I think the Committee that discussed the question in London last August were agreed that demarcation of Dthali territory by Joint Commission was not to be hoped for. We must now apparently rely upon information already collected, as our Commissioner appears to have accepted exclusion from territory in dispute, and no further surveys of it are to be carried out. I suggest when Wahab submits the new map which, in conjunction with the Turkish surveyors, he is preparing from existing materials, he might submit again in a compendious form the information that has been collected. Meanwhile the Amir of Dthali might, I venture to submit, be told that in his territory, which the Turks have taken forcible possession of since demarcation was proposed by them, he can now resume his administration and that we will support him in this course. A communication might

be made to the Porte to the effect that British Government intend to retain for the Amir all territory that in October 1901 was under his jurisdiction; that should Porte not assent the British Commissioners will lay down what they believe to be the rightful boundary, and that we shall support Amir in maintaining it.

I think that His Majesty's ship "Harrier" should return to Hodeida, her presence there having had good effect; and that Aden column should be mobilized, and the Resident authorized to purchase as many as 1,000 camels for additional troops. They would be, in all probability, very useful for Somaliland expedition. Actual collision appears to be unlikely.

(Repeated to Secretary of State.)

No. 188.

Admiralty to Foreign Office.—(Received November 15.)

(Confidential.)

Sir,

Admiralty, November 14, 1902.

WITH reference to your letter of the 13th instant, I am commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to transmit, for the information of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, copies of two telegrams, dated this day, which have been sent to the Senior Naval Officer at Aden.

I am, &c.
(Signed) EVAN MACGREGOR.

Inclosure 1 in No. 188.

Admiralty to Senior Naval Officer, Aden.

(Telegraphic.)

Admiralty, November 14, 1902.

(1.)

HAS "Harrier" returned to Aden, as ship is wanted at Salif, near Kamaran, to protect Salt Works from Arab attacks?

Inclosure 2 in No. 188.

Admiralty to Senior Naval Officer, Aden.

(Telegraphic.)

Admiralty, November 14, 1902.

(2.)

WITH reference to Admiralty telegram of this date, no vessel to go to Salif without further instructions.

No. 189.

Sir N. O'Connor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received November 15.)

(No. 130.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Constantinople, November 15, 1902.

FIFTY soldiers have been sent by the Turkish Government to Salif, so I hope that, at all events for the present, the visit of a British ship will not be required.

No. 190.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received November 17.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Lord George Hamilton, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of a telegram from the Resident, Aden, dated the 16th November, relative to the Aden delimitation.

India Office, November 17, 1902.

Inclosure in No. 190.

Resident at Aden to Government of Bombay.

(Telegraphic.) P.

Aden Residency, November 16, 1902.

THOUGH Jabal Jihaf and Mafare are being evacuated by Turkish regulars, Wahab reports their occupation by Arab levies is being maintained by the Turks, who have been given orders that any British party attempting to visit the country should be fired at.

British Commissioner hopes to be able to move soon, with his party, to Lak-matashshab, near point of commencement of the boundary between Mare district and Shaibi territory. He asks that when the movement north-eastwards takes place, a force not less than that of the Turks at Kataba, say 400 men, of whom some should be British, with four guns, should be stationed at Dthali.

We should be clearly within our rights in doing this, as Dthali is not disputed territory.

I concur with Wahab, and think it very necessary to have part of Aden column at Dthali, whenever his party leaves the plateau.

No. 191.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received November 17.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Lord George Hamilton, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of inclosures in a letter from the Foreign Secretary, India, dated the 30th October last, respecting the Perso-Afghan frontier dispute.

India Office, November 17, 1902.

Inclosure 1 in No. 191.

Mr. des Graz to Government of India.

(Telegraphic.)

Tehran, October 6, 1902.

SOME time ago, in answer to our inquiries, the Minister for Foreign Affairs and the Minister for War informed me and Military Attaché, respectively, that the Karaye regiment, some 500 or 600 strong, with 100 sowars, would be sent to relieve the Kain regiment, which was to be recalled from Seistan on account of inefficiency. On receipt of the telegram, dated the 1st October, from His Britannic Majesty's Consul-General at Meshed, I again brought the matter to the notice of the Minister for Foreign Affairs in a private letter, deprecating an increase to the number of Persian troops in Seistan at this moment. His Excellency promised an early reply.

I am endeavouring to ascertain the truth of the rumoured dispatch to Seistan of the Kerman regiment.

This telegram has been repeated to His Britannic Majesty's Consul-General for Khorassan and Seistan.

Inclosure 2 in No. 191.

Lieutenant-Colonel Whyte to Government of India.

(Telegraphic.)

October 7, 1902.

THE information given in my telegram of the 1st October regarding the dispatch of Persian reinforcements to Seistan, was from an absolutely authoritative source. It was given on assurance that the name of the informant would not be divulged. I have been in communication with the Governor-General, and he has promised me to detain the troops who have now reached Turbat-i-Haidari, on various excuses, for a week there, and has authorized my reporting his promise on the understanding that the matter is kept confidential.

Inclosure 3 in No. 191.

Government of India to Lord G. Hamilton, October 9, 1902.

[Already printed.]

Inclosure 4 in No. 191.

Mr. des Graz to Government of India, October 8 1902.

[Already printed.]

Inclosure 5 in No. 191.

Lord G. Hamilton to Government of India, October 8, 1902.

[Already printed.]

Inclosure 6 in No. 191.

Mr. des Graz to Government of India, October 10, 1902.

[Already printed.]

Inclosure 7 in No. 191.

Government of India to Lieutenant-Colonel Whyte.

(Telegraphic.)

Simla, October 11, 1902.

PLEASE refer to your telegram of the 7th October. Mr. des Graz has a positive assurance that no troops are being sent from Kerman to Seistan, and Major Phillott says there is no idea at Kerman of any such intention. Mr. des Graz is trying to induce the Minister of War to recall the Kain regiment simultaneously with the arrival of the 600 men under dispatch from Meshed.

Inclosure 8 in No. 191.

Lieutenant-Colonel Whyte to Government of India.

(Confidential.)

Meshed, September 19, 1902.

I HAVE the honour to forward, for the information of the Government of India, the accompanying copies of telegrams which have passed between His Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires and me on the subject of the dispatch of fresh troops to Seistan by the Persian authorities.

Inclosure 9 in No. 191.

Lieutenant-Colonel Whyte to Mr. des Graz.

(Telegraphic.)

Mesher, August 11, 1902.

YOUR telegram of the 23rd July.

I am informed by the Governor-General, Khorassan, that orders have been sent him from Tehran to collect 150 sowars at Mesher. It is believed that these sowars are intended for Seistan. As the question of the Seistan-Afghan boundary is now under friendly discussion between Persia and British Governments, I think that Persian Government should refrain from dispatching fresh troops to Seistan. Such a step is likely to create suspicion in minds of Afghans, and might lead to disputed territories again being occupied by them.

Inclosure 10 in No. 191.

Mr. des Graz to Lieutenant-Colonel Whyte.

(Telegraphic.)

Tehran, August 14, 1902.

I AGREE with what you say in your telegram dated the 11th August last, and, in conversation with Mushir-ed-Dowleh, strongly deprecated the dispatch of any fresh troops to Seistan.

His Excellency said that the Kain regiment was to be recalled to Kain from Seistan owing to inefficiency, and that a regiment from Karaye, near Turbat-i-Haidari, would take its place.

The regiment would be 500 or 600 strong, with 100 sowars. I shall take an opportunity of again referring to matter.

Inclosure 11 in No. 191.

Lieutenant-Colonel Whyte to Mr. des Graz.

(Telegraphic.)

Mesher, August 29, 1902.

MY telegram of the 27th August.

I am informed by Governor-General that Karaye regiment and 100 sowars are going to Seistan, but that no orders have been received to recall any troops from Seistan. Representations have been made by Russian Consul-General here to Governor-General regarding state of affairs in Seistan which he described as being very bad. I am told by Governor-General that Russian Consul-General also complained that Russian Consul could get no water, and was being put to great discomfort.

Russians are evidently trying to create serious incident between Persians and Afghans over state of things in Seistan.

Inclosure 12 in No. 191.

Mr. des Graz to Lieutenant-Colonel Whyte.

(Telegraphic.)

Tehran, September 8, 1902.

STATEMENT that Karaye regiment is being sent to replace Kain regiment, and not as increase Seistan force, has been confirmed by Minister of War to the Military Attaché.

Inclosure 13 in No. 191.

Lieutenant-Colonel Whyte to Mr. des Graz.

(Telegraphic.)

[Undated.]

YOUR telegram of the 8th September: 100 sowars and Karaye regiment, 500 strong, have left for Seistan.

Will Minister of War or Foreign Minister say what troops they are going to relieve? I learn here that Kain regiment, 500 strong, which is leaving Seistan, is being relieved by regiment from Birjand, 300 strong. Arrival of sowars and Karaye regiment will mean increase to Seistan force of 400. At present moment, in view of tension over Afghan-Seistan boundary, this is to be deprecated.

Inclosure 14 in No. 191.

Extract from Diary No. 10 of Major Benn, for period from August 16 to 31, 1902.

THE water famine in Seistan still continues. My telegraphic reports Nos. 227, 244, 254, and 260 describe the situation up to the 30th August. Owing to the Russian Consul's growing inclination to interfere in this and other matters connected with the Local Government and the Afghans, as described in my telegram of the 15th August (forwarded to the Government of India under my telegram, dated the 17th August), and the apparent acquiescence of the Deputy Governor and local officials to accept him as their adviser in such matters, I called on the Deputy Governor. During my conversation, the water question was discussed, and the Governor deplored the difficulties of the situation, which, he thought, though in a certain degree due to natural causes, were perhaps also aggravated by the Afghans. This gave me the opportunity of reminding him that, if he was in need of advice in the case of any difficulty with the Afghans, his obligation under Treaty demanded that he should look to the British Government for assistance, and that I, as His Majesty's Representative in Seistan, would always be ready to help him. I told him that I was in receipt of a report that he had recently visited the Yamin-i-Nizam with the Russian Consul to discuss the difficulties of the water question and the action of the Akhundzada of Chakansur in connection with it.

The Deputy Governor replied that his meeting with the Russian Consul was accidental, and he tried to explain that in the absence of a Karguzar he was not expected to know the Treaty. He promised, however, that he would remember its terms in future.

During the course of the next few days I received visits from the Yamin-i-Nizam and Sardar Purdil Khan, who both came to discuss the water difficulty. The former, in conversation, suggested that the best solution of the water question for the future would be to run to the Perso-Afghan boundary line from Koh-i-Malik Siah to Bund-i-Kamal Khan on the Helmund instead of, as at present, from the above point on to the Bund-i-Seistan at Kohak. He said the Persian Government still claimed Tarakhun, and he pointed out that by making the division of the Helmund water at Kamal Khan bund, all the desert country lying to the west of the Helmund, and once so fertile, could be restored, by irrigation, to its former prosperity, while the benefit to our Indian caravans, who now have to cross a desert, would be enormous. He said he hoped that in any future arbitration this point would not be lost sight of.

From a mass of conflicting reports which have reached Seistan, as the result of a personal visit to the Helmund and from the information gathered in the frontier villages during my tour, I have arrived at the following conclusions regarding the present situation:—

1. That the present drought is undoubtedly due to the abnormal dryness of the past year, and to natural causes;
2. That Chakansur, which was said by the Seistanis to have a liberal supply of water, is suffering from the drought equally with, if not more than, Seistan;
3. That no channel appears to have been dug by the Afghans close to and above the Seistan bund so as to denude Seistan of water;
4. That a very small quantity of water exists in the Helmund at Kila-i-Fath;
5. That there are about 3 feet of water in the Helmund as far as Rudbar, where there is said to be a kind of masonry dam. In normal years the water flows over this dam and continues its course to the Seistan bund;
6. That the reports regarding the crops in Seistan having been ruined are exaggerated. The tobacco crop has certainly suffered seriously, and the opium, cotton, and melon crops are damaged.

Inclosure 15 in No. 191.

Report by the Native Assistant at Chaman, dated September 13, 1902.

(Translation.)

HIS Highness the Ameer of Afghanistan has appointed my younger brother, Muhammad Ayub Khan, as Hakim of Sarhadi, Seistan, and Chakansur. He will report on political matters to the Ameer.

I have heard from Chakansur that Muhammad Ayub Khan has arrived there, and

[1565]

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has taken charge of his appointment, and people of Zaris, Bagat, and other places help him diligently in his work.

The Ameer attaches much importance to Seistan affairs, and I hope to get information about them in the future.

Inclosure 16 in No. 191.

Memorandum.

THE papers specified in the margin* were transmitted to the Secretary, Political Department, India Office, London, for the information of His Majesty's Secretary of State for India, under cover of the Foreign Secretary's letter dated the 16th October last.

Inclosure 17 in No. 191.

Major Benn to Government of India.

(Confidential.)

(Telegraphic.)

Seistan, October 8 (Nushki, October 16), 1902.

PLEASE see my report of the 30th September regarding Shahgul bund. Latter is known locally as Pariun bund also. Karguzar and Yamin-i-Nazim visited Shahgul bund on the 3rd. Exaggerated reports which may have been sent to Tehran of their visit reached here. It was said detachment of Afghan troops threatened fire on them, and Sardar Purdil Khan was being sent out to destroy bund by force. Karguzar has just returned, and I have seen him. He denies the reports current here; states he visited boundary from Shahgul bund via old Helmund bed to Takht-i-Shah; no Afghan troops were at bund which, however, prevented any water from entering Parez Pariun. Yamin wrote Akhundzada, Chakansur, asking him to allow water pass Shahgul bund; Akhundzada wrote flat refusal in reply. (Please see my report 284 of 20th September and map.) Karguzar confirms report that Afghans intend opening at point on Helmund above Seistan bund, which appears to correspond to point B on my map and new canal at which they have been working for considerable time; this canal said to extend through Khushgah village to Jaroki, which is about east of Milak. If it is utilized by Afghans, while Helmund is in its present low state, it is likely to seriously interfere with main water supply of Seistan, which reaches city and district to the south by the Rud-i-Seistan. Karguzar regards situation as serious, and keenly resents unfriendly action of Akhundzada which deprives Miankangi, most prosperous portion of Seistan, of water, and which will cause failure of all spring crops; says Seistanis in retaliation propose opening an old canal from old Helmund bed near Milak which will draw off to Persian side water now entering old Helmund bed by Afghan channel at Shahgul. He anticipates this will create grave disturbances, but has promised to try and prevent such action. Says no intention, as far as he knows, sending Purdil Khan to destroy Shahgul bund; proposes discussing with Governor and Yamin advisability of asking me to interview Akhundzada with view to coming to some temporary arrangement regarding water supply pending arrival of British Arbitrator, whom he is aware his Government has asked to be sent here. Posted to Meshed; addressed to Foreign; and repeated to the Agent the Governor-General, Quetta.

Inclosure 18 in No. 191.

Government of India to Major Benn.

(Telegraphic.)

YOUR telegram, 16th October.

Simla, October 18, 1902.

Ameer has not yet answered letters sent to him on 31st July and 3rd October conveying proposals for arbitration, though reply is expected very shortly. Pending its

* Seistan-Afghan boundary dispute: Correspondence beginning with telegram to His Majesty's Secretary of State, dated September 30, and ending with telegram to His Britannic Majesty's Consul-General and Agent of the Government of India in Khorassan and Seistan, dated October 11, 1902.

receipt McMahon cannot start, and you should exert your best endeavours to maintaining *status quo* and to preventing collision. You may explain verbally to Akhundzada that Ameer will be held responsible if fresh canals are opened or new bunds constructed, and collision results, inasmuch as if His Highness had promptly answered the Government of India's communications, the British Arbitrator might have already reached Seistan.

Inclosure 19 in No. 191.

Government of India to Political Agent, Khyber.

(Telegraphic.)

Simla, October 20, 1902.

WILL you please arrange to forward by a special messenger the following urgent communication to the British Agent in Cabul, obtaining a formal receipt for its safe and prompt delivery from responsible Afghan officer:—

"On receipt of these instructions, you will ask for an immediate audience of the Ameer to convey a message of the greatest importance from the Government of India. You will say at the audience that the Government have been waiting patiently for two and a-half months for a reply to his Excellency the Viceroy's first letter, dated 31st July last, on the subject of the appointment of an Arbitrator in the Afghan-Seistan dispute, and are at a loss to understand the motives of His Highness in failing to return any answer. You will explain that the intervention of the Government of India in this case has been demanded by Treaty stipulation, and has been dictated entirely in His Highness' own interests, but that, owing to the dilatoriness of the Afghan Government in taking any notice of the situation, the latter is rapidly becoming acute, and may at any moment develop, if it has not already developed, into an armed conflict that may lead to complications by which the Ameer himself and Afghan interests would certainly not be the gainers. You will add that the Government of India cannot accept the responsibility of allowing the interests both of peace and of the Afghan territories and people in Seistan to be thus imperilled, and that, unless an immediate reply is received accepting the offices of the British Arbitrator and making the necessary arrangements for the appointment of his Afghan colleague, Major McMahon will be authorized to start without delay in order to prevent further trouble, and to vindicate the position of Great Britain as Arbitrator in the tract under dispute.

Inclosure 20 in No. 191.

Government of India to Lord G. Hamilton, October 21, 1902.

[Already printed.]

Inclosure 21 in No. 191.

Major Benn to Government of India, September 30, 1902.

[Already printed.]

Inclosure 22 in No. 191.

Extract from Diary No. 11 of Major Benn, for period from September 1 to 15, 1902.

DURING an interview with the Yamin-i-Nazam on the 5th September, he told me that he had received orders to report whether the information that had been received by the Persian Government as to the Afghans having destroyed a bund and dug channels so as to denude the Miankangi district and Seistan of water was true. The Yamin told me that he had replied that the reports were false, and the present scarcity was due to natural causes only. He added that "some one" must have submitted a very exaggerated account of the situation.

No information that I have yet received has corroborated the report that the present drought is the result of the Afghans having destroyed a bund or dug channels from the Helmund. Since April last (*vide* paragraph 6 of my report dated the 4th July last, forwarded to the Government of India with my letter of the same date) the Afghans, so far as my information goes, have not been guilty of any encroachments along that portion of the river below the Seistan bund which forms the Goldsmid boundary between Seistan and Afghan territory. Above and to the south of the Seistan bund they appear to have repaired or constructed several bunds, and to have dug channels (*vide* my telegram to the Government of India, dated the 17th August). Their having done so may possibly have accelerated the advent of the drought in Seistan; it can scarcely be said to have been the direct cause of it. Owing to the drying up of the Helmund, the drought was in any case inevitable, and this view of the situation appears to be accepted by all local officials in Seistan.

In this connection, however, Mr. Miller, during a recent visit I paid him, remarked to me that the present scarcity was due to the conduct of the Afghans. He stated that never before this year had a bund existed at Kila-i-Fath. He implied that it had been specially constructed this year to catch the reduced flow of water in the Helmund. My information does not quite tally with this; for I was informed that the Kila-i-Fath bund was only repaired (as is done every year) by the new Governor of Kila-i-Fath. An agent has been sent to Kila-i-Fath to collect all possible information on this subject.

News has reached here to-day (15th September) that the Helmund has risen, and that the water has reached the Seistan bund. The report is generally believed to be true. If this is so, the spring harvest ought to be assured.

The Karguzar of Seistan is said to have written to Meshed for permission to have the Seistan bund built of masonry.

A report has been current here for the past few weeks that a force of 400 troops is on its way from Tehran to Seistan for duty on the Seistan-Afghan border from the Miankangi district as far as Koh-i-Malik Siah.

Inclosure 23 in No. 191.

Lieutenant-Colonel Whyte to Government of India.

(Telegraphic.)

Meshed, October 21, 1902.

PLEASE refer to my letter, dated the 19th September last, Confidential, and your telegram of the 4th October. The Minister for Foreign Affairs and the Minister of War have given positive assurances to His Britannic Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires, Tehran, that no increase of troops in Seistan is intended. I have communicated by telegraph and by messenger with the British Agent at Birjand, and he confirms the information given in my telegram of the 19th September. The British Agent says that three *dastehs* or companies have recently left Kain for Seistan—the usual strength of the company is 100 men. It is stated here that the strength of the Kain regiment in Seistan is 500. If, therefore, the force from Meshed and the force from Kain both reach Seistan, the force there, even if the Kain regiment is really recalled, will be increased by 400.

Inclosure 24 in No. 191.

The Ameer of Afghanistan to Government of India.

(Translation.)

(After compliments.)

12th Rajab, 1320 H. (October 15, 1902).

I HAVE received your Excellency's friendly letter, dated the 31st July last, and understood the contents, which were to the following effect:—

[His Highness quotes the whole letter.]

I have also received your Excellency's second letter, dated the 3rd October last, asking me to send urgently a reply on the subject.

As I cordially desire that, in my communications and correspondence with your Excellency, I should always express myself in sincere and open words, therefore, in some matters it becomes necessary that requisite inquiries should be carried out; and in this

case also, I thought it proper to make due inquiries, and learn about the doings and behaviour of the "Hakim" of Chakansur. I learn that the said official only lays claim to those limits, which have been considered to belong to Afghanistan, as has been explained in the map prepared by General Goldsmid, which was sent by your Excellency on the 23rd July last, and that he has no desire to deviate from the boundary-line laid down in the said map, and he does not rely on the course of the waters of the Helmund as delimiting the boundaries in those parts; because the waters of the river, owing to heavy floods, sometimes flow in the direction of Seistan, and it is possible that they may at other times turn and flow to the Chakansur lands. It is clear in the map that General Goldsmid in illustrating his decision has drawn the boundary-line between Chakansur and Seistan by a red line; and he has shown the course of the river separately from the boundary-line.

Now the Persians say that some years ago the original stream of the Helmund used to be considered the boundary in that direction; that it has changed its course, and that the land which used to be on its west has now come out on its eastern bank; and they state that this change of the course of the river makes no difference whatever in that frontier; that the Hakim of Chakansur says that the present course of the river should be considered as the boundary, and all the land on the eastern bank of the river belongs to Afghanistan, although the said land, before the change of the course of the river from its old bed, belonged to the Persians.

My dear friend, I have duly inquired into this matter from my officials at Chakansur; and the slight delay which has occurred in replying to your Excellency's letter was on this account, as I wanted to acquire proper knowledge of the matter. I now fully assure your Excellency that the Hakim of Chakansur does not lay claim to any lands which are lying on the other side of the boundary-line laid down in the map sent by your Excellency. The map which your Excellency has sent is now with me, and I have carefully examined it. Thus, a boundary line on the west in the form of an eclipse, has been drawn in red ink, which begins at Koh-i-Malik Siah, and goes in a north-easterly direction, leaving Ram-rud on the side of Afghanistan, and passes through the jointly owned lands of Afghanistan and Persia, close to Kila-i-Nawaz, and reaches at Kohak-band. Here the Helmund comes from Afghanistan on the east, and flows in a northerly direction; and its course is marked by a blue line, which leaves the red boundary-line on its west, and leaves the places well known as Nap-i-Ali and Kila-i-Kang on the east of Afghanistan. The river then runs on straight in a northerly direction and falls into a lake called Hamun-puzak, which belongs to Afghanistan. Then the red boundary-line passes to the west of Kohak-band, leaving the river and the said "band" on the side of Afghanistan, and then curving slightly goes on to the north at a distance of about 2 miles from Nad-i-Ali and 4 miles from Kila-i-Kang, leaving these places on the east to Afghanistan. Then the line inclines to the north-west, reaching Kila-i-Kalbak (Koluk?), which it leaves about 2 miles on the side of Seistan, and then it passes straight on to the west; and leaving the lake known as Hamun-Sabur and Koh-i-Kuch on the side of Afghanistan, it joins the Koh-i-Siah, which is Persian territory.

If this map which your Excellency has sent contains the illustration of the settlement made by General Goldsmid in the year 1872 between the Persian and Afghan Governments, and, as your Excellency writes that the said settlement made by General Goldsmid has been binding for more than twenty-five years, and been approved and accepted, I also now accept the said map. If, as the Persian Government has said, my officials at Chakansur have laid claim to those lands which formerly belonged to the Persians, and which during the last few years, owing to floods of the Helmund, which has altered its course towards Seistan, have changed their position, and the land which was on the west of the said river has now come to be placed on the east of the river, I write that to these lands in dispute, provided they are, in accordance with the boundary-line laid down in the map of General Goldsmid, on the other side and to the west of the said boundary-line, I lay no claim and raise no dispute about them; on the contrary, I will prohibit my officials at Chakansur and instruct them not to interfere with Persian territory; and will direct the Hakim of Chakansur and the Hakim of Seistan, or any other official appointed on behalf of the Persian Government to look into the matter, to place the said map before them, and in a friendly and neighbourly spirit point out to each other the limits of their respective territories, and set up distinct marks, so that no dispute may again occur between them. I have made inquiries into the matter up to the point which I have mentioned above, and have now communicated to your Excellency.

I do not know whether the Persian Government wish to claim anything contrary to the existing map, and in excess of their former rights. If your Excellency is aware of this, your Excellency will be pleased to write to me, explaining their object.

If their contention is worth being entertained, a discussion will be carried on through your Excellency.

As to what your Excellency writes stating that the Persian Government has represented to His Majesty the King of England's Government that, besides occupying land, which was until recently indisputably Persian, my subjects have destroyed the Persian dam of Band-i-Seistan near Kuhak,—my dear friend, as clearly the complaints of the Persian Government are against the officials of Chakansur, who are subjects of the God-granted Government of Afghanistan, and are friends and not subjects of the Government of His Majesty the King of England, I have written a reply above to the effect that the Hakim of Chakansur does not interfere with the land which is on the other side, to the west of the boundary-line, as marked in the map of General Goldsmid, although owing to the flood and change of course of the stream, it may have come to be placed on this side of the Helmund, and close to the western side of the boundary-line.

Further, as to what your Excellency writes in the second letter, dated the 3rd October, last, asking for replies to your Excellency's two previous letters, dated the 6th and 17th June last, I write to say that, as there has not occurred, nor does exist any fault in the foundation of the friendship and union between these two Governments, and as I have written in my former letters, I will, please God, preserve intact this thread of friendship and concord, which has come into my hands, as an inheritance, in the same manner as my late father did by his action and behaviour with sincerity and fidelity towards the British Government; and I desire that similar action and behaviour may be adopted on the other side. Consequently, if, on account of certain urgent engagements, a few days' delay may have occurred in sending a reply, it does not matter, as sometimes a similar delay has occurred on the other side.

I hope to send replies to your Excellency's two letters early and in a friendly manner, and that they will reach your Excellency.

Inclosure 25 in No. 191.

Major Benn to Government of India.

(Confidential.)

(Telegraphic.)

Seistan, October 15 (Nushki, October 23), 1902.

MY telegram of the 8th October.

Local Government seem disinclined adopt Karguzar's proposals to seek my intervention with Akhundzada. Meanwhile Seistanis have begun digging channel near Milak, which will draw off water from old Helmund to Miankangi district. They are also said to be digging channel just above Shahgul bund, which will cut off bend in river and carry water to Pariun or Dashak (*vide* map with my report 298). Yamin-i-Nizam tells me, he hopes, this action will act as lever, and force Afghans allow water pass Shahgal bund. Afghans, I fear, are likely oppose this when mouths of channel approach Helmund bed; but even if they do not, they can, and it is said they intend to, open mouth of new canal at point B above Seistan bund mentioned in my last telegram, which is likely denude both Miankangi and lower Seistan of water. I will use every effort to avert a collision pending arrival of British Arbitrator. Russian Consul is now on tour in direction of Seistan-Afghan frontier. Posted to Meshed; addressed to Foreign; repeated to Agent to the Governor-General, Baluchistan.

Inclosure 26 in No. 191.

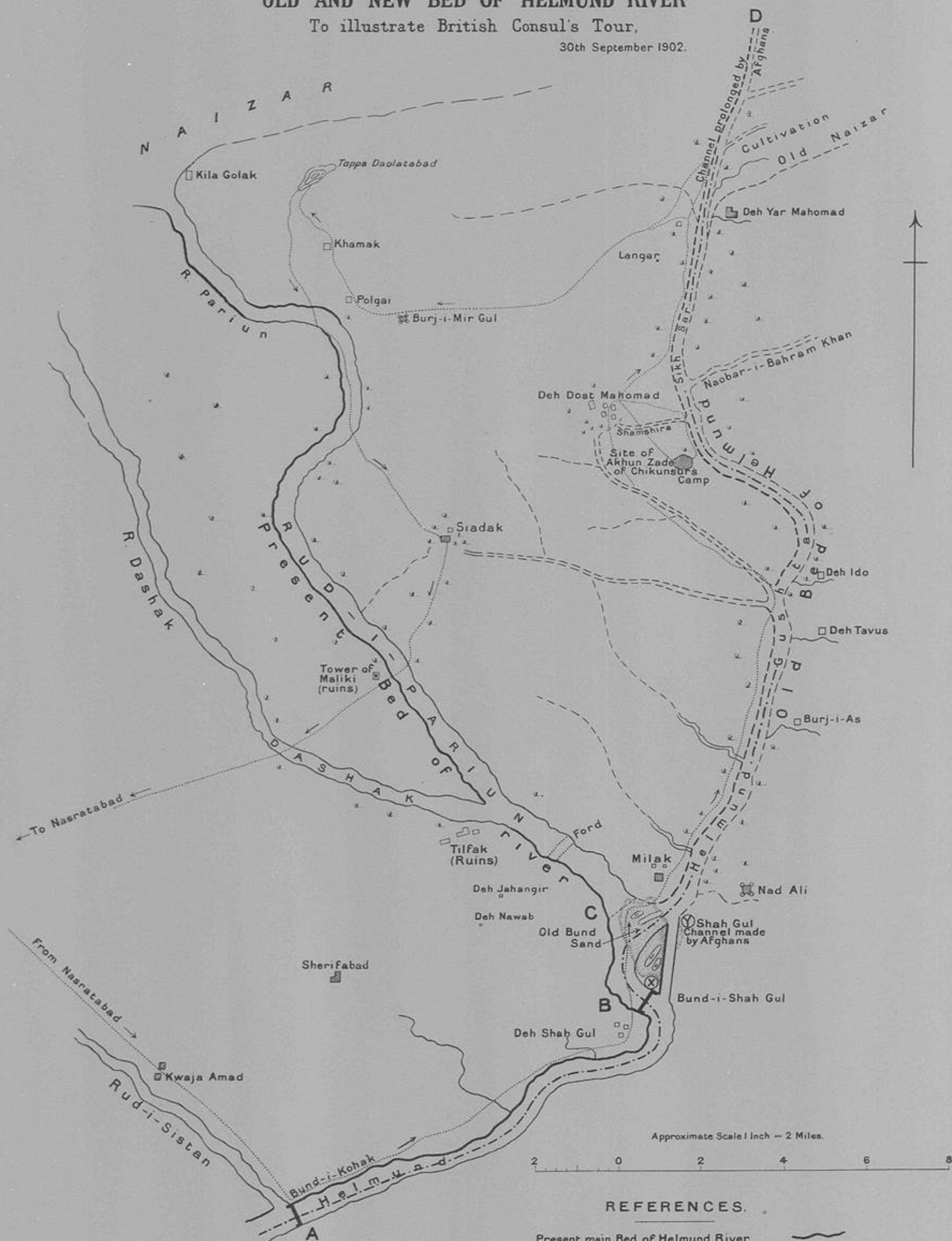
Government of India to Lord G. Hamilton, October 27, 1902.

[Already printed.]

ROUGH MAP OF OLD AND NEW BED OF HELMUND RIVER

To illustrate British Consul's Tour,

30th September 1902.



Approximate Scale 1 Inch = 2 Miles.

REFERENCES.

Present main Bed of Helmund River	—
Old Bed of Helmund River	- - -
Bunds	—
Major Benn's Tour	—
Goldsmid Boundary	—

(Sd) R. A. E. BENN, Major,
His Britannic Majesty's Consul, Seistan.

Inclosure 27 in No. 191.

Major Benn to Government of India.(Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.)*Seistan, October 18 (Nushki, October 27), 1902.*

MY telegram 15th October.

Minister has visited boundary-line from Takht-i-Shah to new channel, which Persians were said in above telegram to intend digging from point above Shahgul bund; this point is called Poozahi Jangjah, and canal will join Pariun at point (due north) called Lukhshakh (*vide* Trench's map with Seistan Diary No. 6). When opened, Persians hope no water will reach old Helmund. Seven hundred armed labourers reported working between Jangjah and Lukhshakh; Afghan reported watching operations from opposite bank. Have asked Plunkett, on tour, to report. Report regarding Afghan Channel being dug from point B above Seistan bund to Jaroki (*vide* map with my 284) is again confirmed; this canal reported 18 feet wide, 12 feet deep; and 12 miles reported finished. Afghans hope it will permanently divert Helmund. Afghan Commandant, with guard 100 men, superintends work. Other troops warned to be present on day of opening. If Persians abandon Jangjah Canal, Afghans would possibly postpone opening theirs at point B. At interview between Akhundzada and Yamin, reported paragraph 18, my 172 of 14th July, Yamin apparently promised produce maps and renew negotiations with Afghan Boundary Commissioner in month's time. Akhundzada present attitude attributed to Yamin not having kept promise. Karguzar's proposals to seek my intervention were apparently not approved by Yamin, who, informant states, frequently consults Miller on frontier water question, also says Miller has allowed Persians to think we intend acquiring lands between Helmund, Taraku, and Haozdar, and would then build permanent dam at Kamal Khan bund reducing Seistan's water supply. Water has now reached lands between Pariun, Nasratabad, and villages to south-west, and crops are being sown. Spring harvest should be assured unless Afghans open channel at point B mentioned above. Miankangi is dry.

Addressed Foreign; repeated Agent, Governor - General, Baluchistan; posted Meshed.

Inclosure 28 in No. 191.

Colonel Yate to Government of India.

(Telegraphic.)

Quetta, October 27, 1902.

FOLLOWING from Benn:—

"Seistan, 18th October. Whole of information given in my telegram 352 was supplied to me by Miller's most trustworthy secret agent, who accompanied Miller on his frontier tour."

Addressed to Foreign with Viceroy, and repeated to Foreign.

Inclosure 29 in No. 191.

Rough Map of Old and New Bed of Helmund River.

No. 192.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir N. O'Connor.

(No. 154.)

Foreign Office, November 17, 1902.

(Telegraphic.) P.

THREE telegrams from Resident at Aden have been repeated to you relating to present condition of Aden Frontier question.

It may be possible for you to remove difficulties with regard to evacuation of Jabel Suheb and those caused by continued presence of Arab levies at Mafari and Jabel Jehaf.

Please send your observations on Resident's other suggestions; but we shall decide nothing until comments of Government of India are received.

Memorandum communicated by Hamid Bey.

LE Commandant-en-chef du 7^e Corps d'Armée vient de télégraphier à la Sublime Porte que les Commissaires Anglais chargés de la fixation de la ligne de démarcation entre les neuf cantons et le Vilayet du Yémen, font effectuer des exercices de tir à des gens qu'ils ont armés de fusils à répétition, qu'ils se sont procuré un grand nombre de chameaux pour l'expédition du côté de Yafi, ainsi que deux bataillons d'infanterie et des accessoires de deux canons.

Il ajoute qu'Ibnafif, un des Cheikhs de Yafi, a été appelé à Aden, et que le détachement dont il s'agit serait conduit par ce dernier.

Ces faits ne pouvant s'expliquer après les dernières instructions transmises aux Commissaires Ottomans, la Sublime Porte demande d'urgence à sa Seigneurie le Marquis de Lansdowne de vouloir bien donner des éclaircissements à ce sujet.

*Ambassade Impériale de Turquie,
Londres, le 17 Novembre, 1902.*

No. 194.

Admiralty to Foreign Office.—(Received November 18.)

Sir, *Admiralty, November 15, 1902.*
I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to transmit herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, a copy of a letter, dated the 20th October last, from His Majesty's ship "Harrier," and of its inclosures, relative to the suppression of piracy in the Red Sea.

I am, &c.
(Signed) EVAN MACGREGOR.

Inclosure 1 in No. 194.

Commander Tower to Admiral Sir C. Domville.

Sir, *"Harrier," at Hodeidah, October 20, 1902.*
IN continuation of my previous letter of proceedings, I have the honour to inform you that I left Perim at 8 P.M., 13th instant, for Aden, arriving at Aden at 8 A.M. the following morning. Found here His Majesty's ship "Pomone," Italian gun-vessel "Vulturino," and the German sloop "Schwalbe" arrived an hour after I did, homeward bound from China. I concluded the contract with Messrs. Cowasjee Dinshaw at Aden for the two dhows, forwarding to you a copy of the transaction by last mail. I then paid an official visit to the Political Resident, General Maitland, and other officials, and left at sunset for Perim, arriving at that port at 5 o'clock the following morning, Wednesday, the 15th instant.

2. At 10 P.M. on Thursday, the 16th instant, I received a telegram *en clair* from Vice-Consul Hodeidah: "Request your presence urgently;" and at 2 o'clock the following morning, the 17th instant, the same telegram repeated from Aden in cypher from "Pomone."

3. I left at 4 o'clock the same morning at 13.5 knots for Hodeidah. My two armed dhows had orders to leave for their respective beats, mentioned in my last letter, at 8 A.M., keeping company as far north as Jebel Zukur.

4. I arrived at Hodeidah at 3 o'clock the same afternoon, the 17th instant, and found here the Italian war vessels "Piemonte" and "Caprera." I at once learned that "Piemonte" and "Barberigo" had come direct from Venice, passing through Canal in quarantine, picking up the "Galileo," then at Suez, and the Senior Officer of these vessels had ordered the "Caprera" at Massowah to meet them at a rendezvous off the Zebayir group, where the "Barberigo" was dispatched to Massowah.

5. I learnt at once from Mr. Richardson, His Britannic Majesty's Vice-Consul at this port, as also from the Captain of the "Piemonte," the present state of affairs, of which His Britannic Majesty's Vice-Consul had fully advised you by telegram, that the Italians had issued an ultimatum, copy of which is attached. I immediately telegraphed

Foreign Office to the Law Officers of the Crown.

Gentlemen. *Foreign Office, November 17, 1902.*
I HAVE the honour to transmit, by direction of the Marquess of Lansdowne, the accompanying papers relating to Customs arrangements between Egypt and Persia.

It will be seen that your predecessors were consulted in 1890 in regard to the position in which Egypt was placed by the termination of all hitherto existing Commercial Treaties between the Porte and certain foreign Powers, and that with the concurrence of the then Law Officers a despatch was addressed to His Majesty's Agency at Cairo (Paper C) stating the views of His Majesty's Government as to the position of Egypt in regard to commercial arrangements with foreign Powers.

I am to draw your particular attention to the following passages in that despatch:—

"In the view of Her Majesty's Government, the result of the Firmans from which I have quoted is that Egypt acquired by them commercial liberty so far as the Porte could grant it. The Sultan could not, by arrangement with a vassal, abolish the rights of foreign States under Treaties then existing, but by the Firman of 1873 His Majesty divested himself of any right in the future to conclude commercial arrangements for Egypt, and only stipulated that the commercial arrangements to be made by the Khedive with foreign Powers should not affect the Sultan's political rights."

"Foreign Powers not having made protest against the Firmans should, in the opinion of His Majesty's Government, be held to have accepted their effect on their own position whenever their then existing Treaty rights should lapse, and no foreign Power has ground for setting up against Egypt the stipulations in commercial matters of a Treaty with the Porte of a date subsequent to the Firman of 1873."

"No Power can claim the application in Egypt of a Tariff agreed upon since 1873 between such Power and the Porte. Such Tariff might be accepted by agreement between any Power and the Egyptian Government, but it would then come into force as a Commercial Convention made by Egypt, and the right to claim the benefit of stipulations contained in other Commercial Conventions made by Egypt would depend upon the terms of the agreement itself."

It appears to Lord Lansdowne to follow from the principle thus laid down that it is not in the power of the Turkish Government in conjunction with another Power having Treaties with Turkey of earlier date than 1873, to enter into any arrangement whether revising, adding to, prolonging, or abrogating them, which could in any way affect the Treaty relations between that other Power and Egypt.

The commercial relations between Turkey and Persia before the issue of the Firman of 1873 were governed principally by the Treaties of Erzeroum of 1823 and 1847 and by an Arrangement of 1870, which fixed the import duties of each country on the goods of the other at 6 per cent.

Persia now wishes to increase her revenue by raising her Customs duties. She has, on the one hand, the above arrangement with Turkey, on the other hand, she is bound towards Russia by the Treaty of Commerce signed at Turkmanchai in 1828 providing for the levy of an import duty not exceeding 5 per cent. on Russian goods imported into Persia.

The latter country has negotiated a new Tariff with Russia which, as in some classes the rate is higher than 6 per cent., she cannot enforce without the consent of Turkey, Turkey having a Commercial Agreement with Persia in which this rate of duty is stipulated. She has accordingly concluded with Turkey a new Arrangement (Paper D) which, as she believes (though there is doubt on the point) releases her from her Tariff obligations towards Turkey, so far as any specific rate is concerned. If this belief is correct, the question arises whether she is also relieved of her engagements towards Egypt in this respect.

The proposed Russo-Persian Tariff is in some respects unfavourable to British and especially Indian trade, and British goods imported into Persia will be subject to the rates specified in that Tariff—this country having only a most-favoured-nation arrangement

with Persia—unless His Majesty's Government are able to claim that the former Treaties between Turkey and Persia are still in force as regards Egypt.

Persia cannot plead ignorance of the position created by the Firman of 1873, for discussions on the subject took place in the years 1887 and 1894, when she signed with Egypt two separate Conventions regarding tobacco, the first for ten years, the second, which replaced it, for twenty-two years. It appears to Lord Lansdowne that, by entering into these arrangements, she admitted that Egypt was a separate country for Customs purposes.

When Venezuela broke off her connection with the United States of Colombia she was still held bound by the Treaty of Commerce with the United Kingdom concluded by the parent State; and the United Kingdom, the other party to the bargain, continued to incur, as regards Venezuela, the responsibilities as well as to enjoy the rights involved in the mutual undertaking.

Similarly, it would seem that Egypt is bound by the old Turkish Treaties, and that Persia is also bound by them as regards both Egypt and the Porte.

It may be argued that, though Egypt continued to be subject to the old Treaties between Turkey and Persia, Persia, on her side, may at any time repudiate them as regards Egypt on the ground that her original contracts were with a single State, that it is an intolerable inconvenience to her, amounting to a complete change in the condition of those contracts, to have to deal with two separate States instead of one; and that she is entitled to maintain that her contracts were with Turkey and that she can recognize no other party to them. The answer to this contention seems to be that it was open to Persia to make a declaration to this effect when the Firman was first brought to her notice, and to have maintained that position by steadily declining to negotiate with Egypt, but that it is not competent for her to revert to an attitude of protest after concluding separate Conventions with Egypt in regard to tobacco.

I am to draw your attention to the Memorandum (Paper marked T) relating to the action taken by Egypt, on her own account and without reference to the Sultan, to terminate the Turkish Treaty of Commerce with Great Britain of 1861, and similar Treaties with other foreign Powers. These Treaties were limited in their duration, that is to say, they ran for successive terms of seven years, option being reserved to either party to terminate their Treaty at the end of the first or any other period by giving one year's notice. Negotiations subsequently took place between this country and Egypt, and they resulted in a Commercial Convention, signed on the 3rd March, 1884, which, however, by common agreement will not come into operation until all the other Powers have concluded similar arrangements.

The old Treaties between Turkey and Persia are not limited as to time and are essentially reciprocal engagements, and it is difficult to see how one party can remain bound under such an arrangement and the other can be free.

If the view that the position of Egypt and Persia towards one another under the old Treaties cannot be affected by any arrangement between Turkey and Persia subsequent to the Firman of 1873 be sound, then Egypt will apparently be entitled to the continuance for her goods of the existing Persian Tariff, and His Majesty's Government under the most-favoured-nation stipulation in the Treaty between this country and Persia of 1857 will be able to insist on receiving the same treatment.

I am to request that you will favour Lord Lansdowne with your opinion as to whether this view be correct, and I am to add that his Lordship would also be glad if you would, at the same time, favour him with any observations of a general nature which you may have to offer on the subject.

As the matter is somewhat urgent, he will be much obliged if you will give it your attention at the earliest convenient moment.

I have, &c.
(Signed) FRANCIS BERTIE.

List of Papers.

(A.)	Law Officers' Report	..	..	..	June	11, 1890.
(B.)	Ditto ..	..	..	..	July	22, "
(C.)	Lord Salisbury to Mr. Portal..	..	..	..	July	29, "
(D.)	Arrangement between Persia and Turkey of September 5, 1902. (In Sir N. O'Connor's No. 145, Commercial, September 19, 1902.)	..	..	..		
(E.)	Memorandum on Tobacco Convention ..	..	..	..	October	22, 1902
(F.)	Memorandum on position of Egypt as regards Turkish Commercial Treaties ..	..	..	..	October	13, "
(G.)	To Lord Cromer .. (No. 5. Commercial. Telegraphic)	..	..	..	October	8, "
(H.)	Lord Cromer .. (No. 13. Commercial. Telegraphic)	..	..	..	October	11, "
(I.)	To Lord Cromer .. (No. 6. Commercial. Telegraphic)	..	..	..	October	16, "
(K.)	Ditto .. (No. 7. Commercial. Telegraphic)	..	..	..	October	17, "
(L.)	Lord Cromer ..	..	..	..	October	22, "
(M.)	Ditto ..	..	..	..	October	22, "
(N.)	To Lord Cromer ..	..	..	..	October	22, "
(O.)	Ditto ..	..	..	..	October	30, "
(P.)	Lord Cromer ..	..	..	..	October	31, "
(Q.)	To Lord Cromer ..	..	..	..	October	31, "
(R.)	Lord Cromer ..	..	..	..	November	4, "
(S.)	Ditto ..	..	..	..	November	6, "
(T.)	Memorandum ..	..	..	..	November	10, "
(V.)	Lord Cromer .. (No. 97. Commercial)	..	..	..	November	6, "
(W.)	Treaty between Turkey and Persia ..	..	..	..	July	28, 1823.
(X.)	Ditto ..	..	..	..	May	31, 1847.
(Y.)	Convention between Turkey and Persia ..	..	..	..	December	20, 1875.

to you my No. 14, being careful to express no definite intention of active co-operation pending further instructions.

6. The "Barberigo" arrived from Massowah at 9 P.M. the same day, the 17th instant, so that three Italian vessels were here at that hour, and the "Galileo" was stationed off Medi, a place not marked on the chart, in latitude about 16° 18' north, inside the Farisan group and about 3 miles inland, and the home of the pirate tribes.

7. "Piemonte" shifted berth to as close in as she could lay before sunset, range from North Fort, Hodeidah, 3,550 yards.

8. I made all arrangements for embarking all or any of the 300 British subjects so desiring at 3.30 A.M., and the night of my arrival some five people slept on board, not waiting for the ships' boats. The Turkish authorities, the Consul informed me, prevented the employment of shore boats (sambooks) to convey refugees.

9. I was advised during the night by the Italian Senior Naval Officer that Turkey had given the necessary satisfactory replies to the ultimatum, but the following morning a further ultimatum was sent, two persons having been sent off from Hodeidah, who, the Italians stated, were not the two pirates demanded. The Italians represented that these two men had been seen at the house of a well-known and respectable merchant, Omar Basaar, who the Turks have now placed in prison, giving him the impossible task of producing the required persons, they having, of course, escaped long before to the country.

10. The Italians prevented all Turkish boats and vessels from leaving the port by warning blank shots, followed by shell. There were two Turkish-armed steam-launches, which were also held up, with a view of their being towed to Massowah failing satisfaction.

11. At 5 P.M. the following day, the 18th instant, the Captain of the "Piemonte" again informed me that every satisfaction had been obtained, and that 200 troops had been embarked here for Medi in a Turkish transport which had arrived during the afternoon for the purpose, others joining from Loheiya to capture the pirates at Medi, some 90 miles north of this port.

12. The "Barberigo" left at 7.50 A.M. on the 18th instant for Medi to join the "Galileo" there. The "Caprera" left at 7.30 P.M. on the 18th instant for Perim.

13. *Inter alia*, the Italians demand that the Chief of the Beni Merwan, the Sheikh of Medi, and the Sheikh of Khor-el-Uahla, three piratical tribes to the northward, should be handed over, towards which operation, I understand, the Turks have sent from Sana, Hodeidah, and Loheiya, at the outside 2,000 troops. I am informed that the Chief of the Beni Merwan can readily command 200,000 armed men, and this tribe have never shown any allegiance to Turkey, who, moreover, has never attempted to enforce it since a disastrous attempt in the summer of 1892.

14. During the past two days the Civil Governors of Hodeidah and Sana have been deposed from Constantinople, the Military Commandants at both places taking over their offices. The Captain of the "Piemonte" called on the temporary Governor the next morning, the 19th instant, and had a lengthy interview. He left for Perim this morning, presumably to coal, and I understand all four Italian vessels meet at Medi shortly, as stated in the Italian ultimatum.

15. I have since learnt that, beyond the pirate question, Italy has some claim against Turkey, who has illegitimately taxed some sambooks flying her flag, and that they adopted similar tactics at Hodeidah four years ago for the same purpose. They also do not forget that Turkey refuses to recognize her established Colony of Erythræa.

16. I would bring to your notice that the Vice-Consul at this port telegraphed to me and to Aden, *en clair*, full details to you, also *en clair*, and I find he has no cypher in his possession, though he has represented this fact to the Embassy at Constantinople some months ago.

17. I am remaining here until the excitement on shore subsides, and then propose leaving for Perim for mails and coal.

18. The heat at Hodeidah is very great, but the health of the ship's company is excellent.

I have, &c.

(Signed) CYRIL TOWER,

Commander and Senior Naval Officer, Red Sea Division.

Inclosure 2 in No. 194.

Signor Cuneo to Vice-Consul Richardson.

(Translation.)

Sir,

Italian Consulate, Hodeidah, October 16, 1902.

I HAVE the honour to inform you that the Captain of His Majesty's ship "Piemonte" has decided to give the following ultimatum to the Local Government:—

"I, the Undersigned, Captain of the Royal ship 'Piemonte,' fix a period for the ending of the dispute which at present exists between the two nations, and I decree that it shall be on the 18th instant at 8 A.M.

"If by that time the man Mohammed Gebah, of Midi, and the two Chiefs of the tribes of Beni Merouan and Beni Ilakami are not delivered up on board this ship, together with their arms, goods, and dhows, or if, at least, an important Delegate of the Ottoman Government, provided with full powers, does not place himself at the disposal of the Captain of this ship by the time stated, in order to go to the various spots where expeditions have been organized for the purpose of plundering, and to order the arrest of the aforesaid persons, as well as their accomplices; the seizure of all their goods, dhows, and arms; assisted, if necessary, by Italian forces, I shall bombard Hodeidah, Midi, and Khor-el-Mahla, and I shall seize all the Ottoman dhows that I meet with.

"Should these authorities agree to place at my disposal a Plenipotentiary Delegate, the latter must deliver up to me the aforesaid men within five days from the time of my arrival at Midi, and of another five days from the time of arrival at Khor-el-Mahla, as, failing this, I shall return to carry out the threatened bombardments and the operations regarding the Ottoman dhows met with."

(Signed) "Chev. ARNONE.

"Commanding the Naval Forces in the Red Sea."

The replies given by the Sublime Porte to our Ambassador as regards the two pillages of Nokra (in April) and of Doubellon (in September), and innumerable piratical acts upheld by Italian (?) dhows, have not been satisfactory, and for that reason the Italian Government decided to send herself ships to the Red Sea for the sole purpose of absolutely suppressing piracy. The meetings which have taken place in the last three days, either with the local authorities or on board the "Piemonte," have only shown once more that these authorities only make use of subterfuge in order not to give the co-operation required for the suppression of piracy.

Accordingly, the Captain of the "Piemonte" has decided to give an ultimatum, at the same time leaving all the responsibility of it on the Turkish Government, on whom also will fall the responsibility of the compulsory measures taken by the Italian men-of-war in the Red Sea.

The Captain offers you and your subjects, as well as those under your protection, hospitality on board the Royal ships which are in the harbour, at least five hours before commencing the military operation.

I am, &c.
Provisional Regent,
(Signed) F. CUNEO,
Italian Consul, Hodeidah.

Inclosure 3 in No. 194.

Commander Tower to Admiral Sir C. Domvile.

(No. 14.)

(Telegraphic.)

"Harrier," at Hodeidah, October 17, 1902.

PROPOSE co-operating with three Italian men-of-war bombarding Hodeidah to-morrow morning, 8 o'clock, failing satisfaction from Turkish authorities and further instructions.

Am protecting British interests.

Inclosure 4 in No. 194.

*Admiral Sir C. Domvile to Commander Tower.**October 17, 1902.*

(Telegraphic.)

YOUR No. 14.

You may protect British interests, but are to take no part in active hostilities without further orders, but may embark any British residents who desire it.

No. 195.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received November 18.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Lord George Hamilton, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of a Secret letter from the Government of India, dated the 23rd October last, and inclosures, respecting the jurisdiction of the Sultan of Oman in Northern Oman.

India Office, November 17, 1902.

Inclosure 1 in No. 195.

Government of India to Lord G. Hamilton.

(Secret.)

My Lord,

Simla, October 23, 1902.

WITH reference to the correspondence ending with your Lordship's Secret despatch No. 23, dated the 30th May last, on the subject of the selection of a naval base in the Persian Gulf, we have the honour to forward, for your Lordship's consideration, copies of correspondence on the subject.

Your Lordship will recollect that in November 1901 we invited attention to a suggestion made by our local officers that the jurisdiction of the Sultan of Muscat should be extended and consolidated along the Batineh Coast; and we intimated that, before expressing an opinion on this suggestion, we proposed to await a further Report from our Political Agent at Muscat. The conclusions at which Major Cox has arrived, after a tour along the coast, are summarized in the 13th paragraph of his Report, dated the 2nd July last, which forms the second inclosure to this despatch.

2. It will be observed that, as regards the Maklab Isthmus and the Promontory of Musandim, Major Cox is of opinion that the Sultan's jurisdiction is of so uncertain and ineffective a character that it would be open to His Majesty's Government either to recognize or to ignore its existence, as might be found most convenient; and he suggests that, in view of the possibility of the Elphinstone Inlet being required for naval or strategical purposes, the old telegraph quarters on the inlet should now be reoccupied by the posting there of a Native Agent in charge of a British flag, as at Bassidore. Major Cox proposes that to carry out this measure, our Political Resident in the Persian Gulf should visit the locality in the telegraph-ship "Patrick Stewart" without previous reference to the Sultan of Muscat, who could be informed, if necessary, that the step is necessitated in connection with a contemplated extension of the Muscat-Jask cable to Bunder Abbas. As an alternative to this proposal, Major Cox suggests that the Sultan should be pressed to assert his authority in that neighbourhood by appointing Walis at Dibba, Lima, Bokha, and Kumzar. Lieutenant-Colonel Kemball, on the other hand, considers that the indefinite position of affairs on this strip of coast may safely be allowed to continue, and he proposes that matters should be left as they are.

3. The above proposals relate to the portion of the coast from Dibba round the Musandim Promontory as far as Tibba on the Arabian Coast of the Persian Gulf. Apart from this, there is a strip of coast between Khor Kalba and Dibba which is subject to the Jowasmi Chief of Shargah, one of the Trucial Chiefs with whom, as your Lordship is aware, Agreements exist precluding them from ceding, selling, mortgaging, or otherwise giving for occupation, any part of their territories, save to the British Government. On this strip of coast affairs are at present in a somewhat unsettled state, the Sheikh of Fujeira, who is nominally subordinate to the Chief of Shargah, desiring to become independent of his Chief, who appears to have shown himself unable or unwilling to

accord adequate protection to his feudatory. Both the Sheikh of Fujeira and the Sheikh of Khor Fakan have recently appealed to the Sultan of Muscat to take them under his protection and to save them from Jowasmi oppression. Lieutenant-Colonel Kemball is endeavouring to effect a settlement between the Sheikh of Fujeira and the Chief of Shargah, and he considers that, if the behaviour of the latter proves reasonable, we are bound to support him and to prevent the Fujeira Sheikh from asserting his independence. If, however, his endeavours to effect a settlement prove abortive, Lieutenant-Colonel Kemball thinks that it may be desirable to terminate the authority of the Jowasmi Chief on the Batineh Coast, and to hand over the strip in question to the Sultan of Muscat.

4. The questions at issue, as stated in the foregoing paragraphs, are of no small difficulty, and have been fully discussed in the Minute by his Excellency the Viceroy which accompanies this despatch, and with which we desire to express our entire concurrence. The proposals which we would invite your Lordship to approve are: first, that our Political Resident at Bushire should be authorized at a suitable opportunity to proceed to the Elphinstone Inlet on the Isthmus of Maklab, and to effect a reoccupation of the old telegraph buildings there in the manner suggested by Major Cox; and, secondly, that the strip of coast between Khor Kalba and Dibba, which is under Jowasmi influence, should continue to be regarded as part of the territory of the Chief of Shargah, with whom we have Treaty relations. It would be easy to explain the suggested action in the Elphinstone Inlet, either to the Sultan of Muscat or to any other inquirer, as connected with possible developments of our system of telegraphic communications in the Gulf.

5. We trust that these proposals, which are directed to preventing the acquisition by any foreign Power of a commanding position at the entrance to the Persian Gulf, will meet with the approval of His Majesty's Government.

We have, &c.

(Signed)

CURZON.
A. P. PALMER.
T. RALEIGH.
E. FG. LAW.
E. R. ELLES.
A. T. ARUNDEL.
DENZIL IBBETSON.

Inclosure 2 in No. 195.

Rear-Admiral Bosanquet to Government of India.

Trincomalee, April 26, 1902.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of, and to thank you for, your letter, dated the 14th instant, forwarding, for my information, copies of correspondence on the subject of the selection of a naval base in the Persian Gulf in view of certain contingencies.

2. I have hitherto remained entirely unaware of the views of the Indian Government, as disclosed by this correspondence, but the matter is one of the greatest possible interest and importance to me as affecting the duties and responsibilities of His Majesty's ships under my orders, and has constantly formed the subject of my most serious consideration.

3. I am of opinion that there are two primary considerations which must govern the selection of points for occupation as naval bases in the Gulf. The first is the danger to India of the establishment of a Russian naval base or fortress at Bunder Abbas. The second is the danger to the East Indies Squadron of any Maritime Power establishing a base in a commanding position (such as the Mosandim Promontory) at the entrance to the Gulf.

4. In order to neutralize the first danger, I think it will eventually be necessary to occupy Kishm and Hormuz, and in order to preserve the line of communication between Kishm, Kurrachee, and Bombay, I think we should also have all the Peninsular of Mosandim from the Isthmus of Maklab to Mosandim Point, together with the Harbour of Duhat Haffa, which would be required as an advanced base for small ships employed scouting between Muscat and Jask.

5. The Mosandim Promontory is, for naval war purposes, the most important

strategical position in the Gulf, and could never be allowed to fall into the hands of an enemy.

6. Duhat Haffa, Mosandim, Koweit, Kishm, and Hormuz would then form India's strategic frontier on the Persian Gulf (I believe that even on a strategic frontier only certain points can be occupied in force), and as these places are all capable of being defended by ships only, so long as Great Britain could afford to keep a sufficiently strong naval squadron in or near the Gulf, it would be unnecessary to fortify them.

7. Should, however, any foreign Power commence to establish a protected naval base, we should probably have to commence a similar proceeding at the nearest point in the above-mentioned group, probably the Island of Kishm.

8. I propose to give directions to the Commanding Officers of His Majesty's ships in the Persian Gulf with a view to obtaining further information as to climate, anchorage, water-supply in all the bays, &c., round the Mosandim Promontory.

Inclosure 3 in No. 195.

Major Cox to Government of India.

Muscat, July 4, 1902.

I HAVE the honour to forward copy of a letter of the 2nd instant, addressed by me to the Resident in the Persian Gulf, on the subject of the Sultan's jurisdiction in Northern Oman; being the Report called for in the Foreign Department letter, dated the 31st October, 1901.

Inclosure 4 in No. 195.

Major Cox to Lieutenant-Colonel Kemball, July 2, 1902.

[Already printed.]

Inclosure 5 in No. 195.

Lieutenant-Colonel Kemball to Government of India.

(Confidential.)

Shiraz, July 20, 1902.

I HAVE the honour to refer to the letter dated the 2nd July last, from the Political Agent at Muscat to my address on the subject of the jurisdiction of the Sultan of Muscat in the direction of Cape Mosandim.

2. Briefly stated, the conclusions arrived at by Major Cox are that, from Muscat as far as and including Mureir, the Sultan's jurisdiction is effective and indisputable. Here the strip of the Batineh Coast, subject to Joasmi sway, intervenes, and from Khor Kalba as far as Dibba the country is under Joasmi influence, which, however, is ineffective and inconvenient. From Dibba round the Mosandim Promontory as far as Tibba on the Arabian Coast of the Persian Gulf, the country is practically independent, and such shadowy rights as the Sultan of Muscat possesses could either be upheld or ignored by us as the exigencies of the moment might require.

3. Leaving for the present the question of the Joasmi jurisdiction on the Batineh Coast, I propose to consider the question of the Sultan's rights from Dibba as far as Tibba, in the neighbourhood of which place the Joasmi jurisdiction again exists. From Major Cox' report it does not appear that the Sultan's right to assert his authority over any part of this strip of the coast would meet with any opposition from the local tribes. In my letter dated the 10th September, 1901, I alluded to the correspondence which took place in 1864 regarding the possible rival claims of the Sultan of Muscat and the Chief of Ras-el-Kheimah to dominion over Cape Mosandim. At that time, in reply to a letter addressed to him by the Political Agent, Muscat, His Highness officially asserted his claim to "Maklab, Khassab, and their neighbourhood." Colonel Pelly, then Resident in the Gulf, whilst expressing his incertitude as to whether the position selected for the telegraph station in Elphinstone Inlet belonged to the Sultan of Muscat or the Chief of Ras-el-Kheimah, deprecated the definition of the boundaries of the territories of the several Chiefs for the purposes of fixing their responsibility for the protection of the telegraph station. The Government of Bombay concurred, and

decided that it would be as well that the question should not be raised, but that the Political Resident should obtain from the Chief of Ras-el-Kheimah and the other littoral Chiefs a general engagement not to interfere in any way with the operations of the telegraph. The telegraph station was established in Elphinstone Inlet without the official permission of the Sultan of Muscat or any of the littoral Chiefs, a practical proof, I think, of the independence of this strip of the coast from our point of view. Since that time, circumstances have somewhat changed. The Sultan has established a Wali at Khassab, the Joasmi Chief has tacitly acknowledged the Sultan's sovereign rights over Kumzar, and if the Sultan now chose to assert his authority in a more practical form over the whole coast-line from Dibba to the limits of the Joasmi jurisdiction, it would, I think, be difficult to contest his right to do so.

4. Major Cox, in the concluding portion of his letter, discusses two alternatives in connection with this strip of the coast-line, one of which is that the British flag should again be hoisted on the site of the abandoned telegraph station in Elphinstone Inlet, and that a Native Agent should be posted there. The other alternative is that the Sultan of Muscat should be advised to assert his authority more clearly over the tract in question by appointing Walis at Lima, Kumzar, and Bokha.

Before proceeding to discuss these two alternatives, I will preface my remarks by observing that the only importance which, under existing circumstances, the coast-line in question has for us is that it possesses one or more harbours which might at some time be useful to us, and whose seizure by another Power we could not view with composure. In this connection the inlets on the Ras Mosandim Promontory are, it appears, of the chief importance. With regard, then, to the first alternative suggested by Major Cox—

By our reoccupation of Elphinstone inlet, we shall ignore such rights as the Sultan of Muscat may consider that he possesses in this quarter, and the question has to be considered whether it is worth our while to run the risk of coming into conflict with the Sultan over this matter. Apart from the practical difficulties connected with the establishment of a Native Agent in so wild and deserted a region, it appears to be at any rate doubtful if we shall ever require to establish a naval base in this neighbourhood. It might be desirable that we should have the exclusive right to occupy any of the inlets for the purposes of a naval base, but it does not appear that there are any native Chiefs with whom we could make agreements so as to insure this right to the British Government.

With regard to the second alternative, this would certainly have the result of protecting the strip in question from aggression by other Powers by the Anglo-French Agreement of 1862, and would also presumably debar us from occupying the Elphinstone inlet for the purposes of a naval base. It would also result in bringing the Sultan of Muscat into closer relations with the Trucial Chiefs, which might not perhaps be altogether desirable. I do not, therefore, view with special favour either of the alternatives suggested by Major Cox, and as there does not appear to be any decided reason at the present time for bringing about an alteration in the existing indefinite position of affairs along the strip of coast in question, I am inclined to think that it may be as well to leave matters as they are. The Sultan's title, indefinite though it may be, is, it seems to me, sufficient to enable us to apply the Agreement of 1862 in the event of any foreign Power seeking to establish a naval base in this region, while the emergency, which would require us to occupy a base ourselves, would probably be so grave as to justify us in ignoring the Sultan's rights even if they were more definite than they are at present.

5. With regard to the question of the Joasmi jurisdiction over the strip of the Batineh Coast, the present position of affairs has been described by Major Cox with sufficient accuracy. The Headman of Fujeira has lately been seeking to throw off his allegiance to the Joasmi Chief of Shargah, and has invoked the assistance both of the Sultan of Muscat and the Chief of Debaye. The intervention of the latter Chief in the dispute between the Chief of Shargah and his feudatory at Fujeira looked at one time as if it might lead to trouble, but the Chief of Debaye, who is, I may mention, an intelligent and reasonable Chief, agreed to follow my advice, and to leave the Fujeira question alone. Both the Chief of Shargah and the Fujeira Sheikh are, I consider, to blame in regard to the present position of affairs. The Sheikh of Fujeira is anxious to become independent of Shargah, and the Chief of Shargah does not deal with his feudatory in a tactful and considerate manner, and apparently is not sufficiently powerful to afford full protection from marauders residing in the interior. I am striving to bring about a satisfactory settlement between the parties. So long as the Chief of Shargah is fairly reasonable in his dealings with his feudatory at Fujeira, we are bound, I

consider, to give him our support, and to prevent the Sheikh of Fujeira from seeking assistance from others for the purpose of becoming independent of Shargah. If, however, the Chief of Shargah is unreasonable in his treatment of his feudatory, and is clearly shown to be unable to give him adequate protection, it may become necessary to suggest, for the consideration of Government, that the Joasmi authority on the Batineh Coast should cease to exist, and that the strip should be taken over by the Sultan of Muscat.

Until the result of the recent advice given by me to the Chief of Shargah and the Fujeira Sheikh is seen, it is, I think, premature to make any suggestions regarding the extinction of the Joasmi authority on the Oman Coast.

Inclosure 6 in No. 195.

Minute by his Excellency the Viceroy.

THIS is one of the most difficult questions with which I have been called upon to deal. The rival considerations, whether they relate to the elucidation of political facts, or to the determination of a course of action based partly upon political, partly upon strategical, considerations are so evenly balanced that one may well hesitate to decide between them. Moreover, the political future, against which our action, whatever form it may take, is intended as a safeguard, is itself so shrouded in obscurity and so little admits of confident forecast that it is exceedingly difficult to adjust the means that we are now called upon to adopt to the end that we have in view.

That end may be described both in a negative and in a positive aspect. Negatively, we desire to exclude from the Musandim Promontory in particular, and from the Batineh Coast in general, the ships or forces of any foreign Power. Now, the only foreign Powers who require at present to be considered in such a context are France and Russia. Either Power might in time of trouble desire to take possession of a port or coaling station at some point of this projection on the Arabian Coast. Still more might they contemplate such a proceeding if we had been driven by Russian action or Russian intrigue to occupy the islands on the opposite or northern shore of the Persian Gulf, viz., Hormuz, Kishm, and Henjam. The same reasons that render it so important for Spain (having lost Gibraltar) to retain Ceuta, and that would drive the European Powers into a ferment, if, in addition to the possession of Gibraltar, we were to occupy either Ceuta or Tangier, will, on the more extended sphere of action of the Persian Gulf, tempt our rivals; in the event of our seizing one side of the gateway, to plant themselves upon the other. If it be objected that neither France nor Russia is at all likely to take up a position in so isolated a situation, where they would possess neither hinterland nor communication with any interior base, I think that Gibraltar again supplies the answer. If a port or harbour is occupied for purely naval and strategical purposes, political considerations are waived. This is exactly what we ourselves did in the case of Wei-hai Wei. Requiring the place solely for the above-named reasons, we hastened to Germany (who had never consulted us about Kiaochow) and pledged ourselves not to push into the interior nor to build a railway. It is clear, therefore, that isolated naval bases are not uncommonly acquired without reference to land communications. Experience, however, shows that the base once occupied, territorial acquisition tends to follow. Thus the seizure of Aden has gradually been followed by the extension of a Protectorate over the hinterland, that now stretches inland for a breadth of 90 miles. Similarly the possession of Singapore has been followed not only by the absorption of the island, but of all the adjacent States on the Malay Peninsula; and the occupation of Hong Kong has led to the gradual acquisition of a big slice of Kowloon. Should the French or the Russians therefore ever desire, on grounds of policy or strategy, to establish themselves on the Musandim Peninsula or in its neighbourhood, I do not think that the remoteness or detachment of the situation would deter them from the step.

Neither do I think that they would be deterred by the climate. Bunder Abbas is now represented as one of the most detestable places on the face of the globe. But that did not prevent Ormuz, which is separated from it only by a few miles, from becoming the seat of Portuguese sovereignty, and one of the greatest emporia of Asiatic trade. Besides, the occupation of a naval base does not necessarily involve a large permanent European garrison, or colonization on a large scale. Even if the occupation were temporary only, and were undertaken for the purposes of a particular

campaign, with no intention of being ultimately persevered in, it might not, on that account, be less disagreeable or less dangerous to us.

Supposing, therefore, that at a time of crisis France and Russia, in combination, or either Power singly, contemplate seizing a harbour on that part of the Arabian Coast, what is there (apart from the risk of hostilities with Great Britain) to deter them? The ascendancy of Muscat over the littoral in question is so indeterminate that our own officer, Major Cox, advises us that we can either recognize or ignore it as we please. There is, therefore, no question of established or admitted right of sovereignty, to which we could appeal. Even if we ourselves were now to recognize the authority of the Sultan over those regions and to induce him to take steps to assert it, the French Government would not hold itself bound by our act. If it is open to Major Cox to urge the independence of Musandim, equally would it be open to the French. Their admission that the Anglo-French Declaration of 1862 debars either Power from acquiring, either by lease or by cession, any part of Muscat territory, would not be held by them to apply to ports and harbours which they preferred to regard as independent. Indeed, they would at once point to our own action in 1864 in establishing a telegraph station on the Maklab Isthmus, without reference either to the Sultan of Muscat or to any other authority. Even if, in the interim, the Sultan had to some extent reasserted his power, they would still argue that this fell short of sovereignty, since the maximum assertion of that authority that Major Cox recommends or that the Sultan is at all likely to undertake is the planting in a few of the coast ports of Walis (probably local men) who would in all probability be obliged to content themselves, as does the Wali at Khasab, with collecting such dues as would pay for their own maintenance, without remitting anything in the form either of revenue or of tribute to Muscat.

Still more certain is it that France would take this line in the event of seizure of a port or base by Russia. In no circumstances would she be likely to interpret the Anglo-French Declaration in a sense unfavourable to her ally. Indeed, she might even, while admitting the restriction or disability imposed upon herself, decline absolutely to join hands with us in enforcing it against any third party.

Next, if we turn to the positive aspect of the case—not only is it desirable that any foreign Power should be prevented from acquiring a base on the Musandim Promontory, but, if Admiral Bosanquet's views are sound, and if, as he says, that promontory is for naval purposes the most important strategical position in the Gulf, then it would appear to follow that, if we are to prevent our rivals from establishing themselves upon it, the only alternative is to anticipate them by anterior action ourselves.

This brings me to the various recommendations put forward by our Advisers. In the event of our deciding not to reintroduce the Sultan of Muscat upon the scene, Major Cox recommends that we should again plant a Native Agent at our old telegraph quarters near Khasab. Colonel Kemball, on the other hand, in what seems to me a somewhat hesitating letter, advises us to do nothing. If, he says, we reoccupy the Elphinstone Inlet, we may offend the Sultan. If we bring in the Sultan, then we shall debar ourselves in the future, and shall bring him into undesirable relations with the Trucial Chiefs. I may say a word about both alternatives. The risk of offending the Sultan is, in my opinion, infinitesimal, and is clearly disregarded by Major Cox, who is in a much better position to know what the mind of that potentate is. We have merely to point out to him, if he inquires, that the measure is one of precaution, directed against the chance of a movement by some foreign Power which would be certain in the end to compromise his independence, in order to remove any reasonable objections or suspicions on his part. The resumption of our position and rights at Maklab need not interfere with the limited amount of jurisdiction that his solitary Wali exercises in that neighbourhood, nor need it be regarded as any more extraordinary than our corresponding position at Bassidore. Our rights at Bassidore, even though not actively exercised, will probably be sufficient to keep the Russians away from Kishm, unless, of course, they mean fighting, and similarly the reinstitution of a British post in the Elphinstone Inlet would operate as a deterrent, except at a similar risk, to any other Power, contemplating a landing in that neighbourhood.

The weak point of Colonel Kemball's second alternative is that, in attempting to exclude others (as I have shown a probably quite illusory endeavour), we shall exclude ourselves. As for the Sultan being brought into contact with the Trucial Chiefs, since this state of affairs has already existed for more than half a century on the Batineh Coast, without any detriment to either party or to ourselves, it seems to me that it may be disregarded.

The last sentence brings me to a parenthetical examination of the strip of coast

between Mureyr and Khor Fakan, which is under the direct control of descendants or dependents of the Jowasmi Sheikh of Shargah. They fly his flag and they offer no recognition of any kind to Muscat. From Khor Fakan northwards to Dibba there is a further maritime belt, the Sharkiyeen inhabitants of which are under Jowasmi, as distinct from Muscat, influence. Now it appears that in Colonel Ross' time we held this entire strip of coast from Mureyr to Dibba to be subject to the Maritime Truce—in other words, we recognized it as being a dependency of the Chief of Shargah. I cannot see why we should change this policy. We are much safer off if we can reasonably apply to this maritime belt the conditions of the Maritime Truce, under which the Trucial Chiefs are prohibited from ceding or selling any portion of their territory save to the British Government, than we should be if we persuaded the Sultan to establish his authority over it. For in that case the French would say that the Sultan's action was a belated political move instigated by us, which could not be allowed to supersede or cancel the presumption of the preceding half century; and, as we ourselves should have thrown over the claims of the Jowasmi Sheikh, we could not afterwards appeal to them for protection. In our ingenious attempt, then, to bring in the Sultan, and to shelter the entire Musandim Peninsula under the provisions of the Anglo-French Declaration, we might find that we had overreached ourselves, and sacrificed even the small positive amount of security that we now enjoy.

I am inclined, therefore, to think that we should state the case as above to the Secretary of State, and should tell him that in our opinion the balance of advantage is in favour of reasserting British claims to the Maklab Isthmus rather than of advocating and emphasizing the authority of Muscat. We might take advantage of the opportunity to point out that there is no Sheikh of Musandim, as the Foreign Office suppose: although their argument that, supposing there to be such an individual, it is preferable to treat him as independent, rather than as subject to Muscat, is in principle identical with the view that we have espoused.

(Signed) CURZON.

October 6, 1902.

No. 196.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received November 18.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Lord George Hamilton, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of telegrams to the Viceroy, dated the 13th November, and from the Viceroy, dated the 14th November, relative to the Perso-Afghan boundary dispute.

India Office, November 18, 1902.

Inclosure 1 in No. 196.

Lord G. Hamilton to Government of India.

(Telegraphic.) P.
SEISTAN. Yours 31st.

India Office, November 13, 1902.

Chargé d'Affaires at Tehran has been instructed to point out to Persian Government that their proceedings are unjustifiable, and tending to aggravate the dispute which they have referred to us for settlement. He is to warn them of their responsibility for what may occur in consequence of assemblage of armed forces and labourers, to warn them not to alter *status quo*, and to assure them that the arrival of Arbitrator will be accelerated as much as possible by British Government. Please arrange that Arbitrator's progress, with adequate escort, is accelerated, and assure Amir that impartial consideration will be given to claims of both parties.

Inclosure 2 in No. 196.

Government of India to Lord G. Hamilton.

November 14, 1902.

(Telegraphic.) P.

RAINFALL in Seistan was reported by Benn on 2nd November in consequence of which the river had risen and there was water flowing in Parium by the new Persian channel at Nooza Jangjah, and by the Afghan channel at Shahgul and along the old bed of the river. This, as well as the dissensions between the Afghan Akhundzada, who persists in claiming the district of Miankanji, and Persian Governor of Kilaifath, is considered by Benn as likely to facilitate the maintenance of the *status quo*.
(Repeated to Tehran.)

No. 197.

Sir N. O'Connor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received November 18.)

(No. 131.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Constantinople, November 18, 1902.

I INFORMED the Grand Vizier this afternoon of the reports from Aden, contained in your Lordship's telegrams Nos. 151, 152, and 153 of the 17th November.

His Highness said that the Arab levies, as well as the Ottoman troops, must be withdrawn; the Agreement was of a most solemn nature, and must be observed. He quite appreciated the danger of going back upon it.

I told His Highness that I had some hesitation about reporting assurances from the Porte to your Lordship, but Said Pasha replied that in this instance I need have no uneasiness.

The following appears to me the present position of affairs:—

It has been agreed with the Turkish Government to begin at once delimitating north-eastwards to the desert; Yaffai is thus necessarily placed among the nine cantons, and there is no need for the Commissioners to enter on an academic discussion with the Turks as to whether it is one of them or not. The question, moreover, was decided in our favour when raised some time ago.

The Commissioners would do well to refuse discussion, and to confine themselves to presenting a specific demand to proceed with the delimitation in the direction indicated.

I have no doubt that all four places in the Amiri country will be evacuated by the Turkish troops, and the Grand Vizier has learnt from me that the irregular Arab levies must go too.

Our object is not, however, to render more unpleasant than necessary the process of withdrawal. We shall get rid of them by proceeding quietly and with determination, and there will be a gradual reversion to the situation as it was in October 1901. The delimitation of the Amiri district can, I hope, be taken in hand after the north-eastern boundary is fixed.

Fitzmaurice ought to arrive on the spot very shortly; he knows the situation here, and how to deal with the authorities. I venture earnestly to suggest that the negotiations between the Commissioners should be suspended until his arrival, and then left in his hands.

I should be very glad, if it were possible, for me to receive earlier intelligence of difficulties as they occur.

No. 198.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir N. O'Connor.

(No. 157.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Foreign Office, November 18, 1902.

THE Turkish Chargé d'Affaires called to-day, and, with reference to the Aden frontier delimitation, communicated a complaint that the British Commissioner was distributing repeating rifles to tribes, collecting a quantity of camels, and was bringing up two infantry battalions and two guns for an expedition to the tribe of the Yaffai.

Hamid Bey was informed that we did not believe preparations of such a kind had

been made, but that we would make inquiries into the matter. We had, however, grave reason to complain of the manner in which the Turkish Commissioners were endeavouring to evade executing the instructions sent to them by the Turkish Government, and this would be the subject of a representation which you would make at Constantinople. If they persisted in this attitude, we should be compelled to resort to measures for protecting our interests, which we had especially wished to avoid, in view of the present position of affairs in Arabia.

No. 199.

Foreign Office to India Office.

Sir,

Foreign Office, November 18, 1902.

I AM directed by the Marquess of Lansdowne to transmit to you a copy of a Memorandum which was communicated by the Turkish Chargé d'Affaires yesterday,* complaining that the British Commissioners on the Aden frontier are making preparations for an expedition to the Yaffai country.

A copy of a telegram to His Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople recording what passed at the interview at which Hamid Bey delivered the Memorandum is also inclosed.†

Lord Lansdowne would suggest for Lord G. Hamilton's consideration, that inquiry should be made of the Resident at Aden in regard to the proceedings complained of in the Memorandum.

I am, &c.

(Signed) T. H. SANDERSON.

No. 200.

Hamid Bey to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received November 19.)

LE Chargé d'Affaires de Turquie présente ses compliments au Marquis de Lansdowne, et a l'honneur de l'informer qu'il a reçu, pour instructions de son Gouvernement, de porter à la haute connaissance de sa Seigneurie, les faits suivants:—

D'après un télégramme du Vali intérimaire du Yemen, la tribu Sabihi, des neuf cantons, a attaqué la tribu Hakem du district Ottoman de Moha, tué quelques hommes et s'est livrée à des actes de pillage dans la nuit du 13 courant. La même tribu est venue incendier le village de Debab, du même district, et a mis à mort le fils d'Avas-Sabit, un des Cheikhs de Hakem.

Hamid Bey est chargé d'ajouter que les autorités Impériales ont déjà pris des mesures pour empêcher toutes représailles de la part des tribus Ottomanes et de faire observer que, comme toute nouvelle attaque de ce genre ne manquerait pas de compliquer la situation, la Sublime Porte prie instamment sa Seigneurie de vouloir bien aviser à ce que les autorités d'Aden soient invitées à prendre les dispositions propres à prévenir toute agression nouvelle de la part des tribus des neuf cantons.

*Ambassade Impériale de Turquie, Londres,
le 18 Novembre, 1902.*

No. 201.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received November 19.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Lord George Hamilton, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of inclosures in a letter from the Foreign Secretary, Simla, dated the 30th October, relative to a proposal to conclude a Treaty with the Upper Yafa.

India Office, November 19, 1902.

* No. 193.

† No. 198.

Inclosure 1 in No. 201.

Government of Bombay to Government of India.

(Confidential.)

Bombay Castle, October 15, 1902.

I AM directed to forward, for the information of the Government of India, copy of a letter from the Acting Political Resident, Aden, dated the 28th September last, relative to a proposal to conclude a Treaty with the Upper Yafa, and to say that, in view of the orders communicated with the Memorandum of Mr. Wood, dated the 2nd October last, his Excellency in Council considers that no remarks appear at present necessary.

Inclosure 2 in No. 201.

Lieutenant-Colonel Abud to Government of Bombay.

(Confidential.)

Aden, September 28, 1902.

IN continuation of this Residency letter, dated the 26th October, 1901, in which it was urged that a Treaty should be concluded with the Upper Yafa, I have the honour to inform you that Sultan Kahtan-bin-Umar, the titular Chief of the Upper Yafa, has now preferred a direct request for a Treaty with the British Government.

2. In this Office letter above referred to, it is mentioned that there are four main sections of the Upper Yafa, namely, the Mosata, Daba, Buasi, and Muflaki. This is strictly correct, but owing to their position and their present importance owing to the delimitation of the frontier, the Shaibi should also be mentioned as a sub-division of the Mosata. A reference to Wahab's surveys will show the importance of the recognition of this fact by His Majesty's Government, more especially in view of the information that the Porte has now recognized the Yafa as forming one of the nine cantons under British protection, which was conveyed in the telegram of the 26th instant from the Foreign Secretary to the Government of India.

3. Now that all sections of the Upper Yafa have asked for a Treaty with the British Government, I cannot urge too strongly that their request should be favourably considered and complied with.

4. The Upper Yafa country forms the northern portion of the proposed British Protectorate, and, as such, claims the attention due to its position. In addition to this, the country is a rich one capable of great development, and already grows coffee, bastard saffron, and grain, with a general level of about 7,000 feet, and from all accounts well supplied with water, and its climate is salubrious. To abandon this country would mean that the Turks would gradually absorb it, and would then be brought close to Aden, as the southern portion of the Upper Yafa country actually lies south of a part of the Lower Yafa country. Politically, the Upper Yafa are, perhaps, the strongest of all the tribes near Aden; and though at present hardly as advanced as some of the other tribes, yet it can hardly be expected that they will remain in their backward state. Further, I would remind Government that the Sultan of Shehr and Mokalla is an Upper Yafa, and thus they are closely connected with our Protectorate.

5. From every point of view, therefore, I would submit that it seems expedient that this Treaty should be entered into with as little delay as possible.

No. 202.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir A. Hardinge.

(No. 58.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Foreign Office, November 19, 1902.

ACCORDING to a report communicated by Sir H. Wolff, Yusuf Khan, a son of the Persian Minister at Paris, is going out to Tehran with the object of organizing road surveys by French engineers in southern Persia, and will be appointed for that purpose Secretary to the Atabeg-i-Azam.

Sir H. Wolff also fears that the appointment of a Russian Vice-Consul at Ahwaz may indicate an intention on the part of the Russian Government to obtain the Concession for the construction of a dam at Ahwaz, which was formerly granted to the Shah's French physician, Dr. Tholozan.

No. 203.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir E. Monson.

(No. 255. Africa.)

Foreign Office, November 19, 1902.

Sir,

I COMMUNICATED to the French Ambassador to-day the inclosed Memorandum on the subject of the pressure which was alleged to have been brought to bear by the British Agency and Consulate-General at Zanzibar on the owners of Arabian dhows with the object of inducing them to fly the British flag.

I am, &c.
(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

No. 204.

Foreign Office to India Office.

Sir,

Foreign Office, November 19, 1902.

I AM directed by the Marquess of Lansdowne to transmit to you a copy of a *note verbale* from the Turkish Chargé d'Affaires,* complaining that attacks have been made by the Subaihi tribe, near Aden, on a tribe under Turkish jurisdiction, and requesting that the tribes in the British Protectorate may be prevented from committing such aggressions.

I am to suggest, for the consideration of the Secretary of State for India, that inquiry should be made of the Resident at Aden in regard to the proceedings complained of by Hamid Bey.

I am, &c.
(Signed) T. H. SANDERSON.

No. 205.

Foreign Office to India Office.

(Confidential.)

Sir,

Foreign Office, November 19, 1902.

WITH reference to the telegram from His Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople, No. 131 of the 18th instant, forwarded to you in my letter of to-day, I am directed by the Marquess of Lansdowne to request that you will call the attention of the Secretary of State for India to Sir N. O'Connor's inquiry whether he cannot receive earlier intimation than is at present the case of any difficulties arising with the Turkish members of the Aden Delimitation Commission.

I am to suggest, for Lord George Hamilton's consideration, that, if possible, it should be arranged that any telegrams from Colonel Wahab with regard to the proceedings of the Commission, which the Resident at Aden forwards to the Government of Bombay and to the Secretary of State for India, should, at the same time, be repeated in cypher to Sir N. O'Connor, for his observations, and for any representations which he may deem it expedient to make to the Porte.

I am, &c.
(Signed) T. H. SANDERSON.

No. 206.

Foreign Office to Mr. H. F. B. Lynch.

(Confidential.)

Sir,

Foreign Office, November 19, 1902.

THE Marquess of Lansdowne has consulted Sir A. Hardinge on your letter of the 13th ultimo, relative to the modifications to be made by the Persian Government in the

* No. 200.

Road Concession held by the Imperial Bank of Persia, on its transfer to the new Road Company.

You request that steps may be taken to obtain an alteration in the second clause of the document given to you on the 24th August last by the Atabeg-i-Azam, and also that some further modifications of the Concession may be arranged with the Persian Government.

Sir A. Hardinge, who has now arrived in Tehran, will endeavour to obtain these latter modifications, but he states that the success of his efforts must depend very much on the readiness of the Persian Government to treat the question in a conciliatory spirit.

With regard to the alteration which you propose in Clause 2 of the paper handed to you by the Atabeg-i-Azam, Sir A. Hardinge has expressed a strong opinion that it would not be desirable to approach his Highness on the subject, as the proposal would be calculated to arouse suspicions in his mind as to the intentions of the new Company to give any practical effect to the Concession.

Sir A. Hardinge states that the Kum-Ispahan section of the road is already, in fact, available for wheeled traffic by the route passing through Naizar, and that no great expenditure would be required to convert it, for all practical purposes, into a "chaussée," or "carriageable" road. In his opinion, the main point is that on the routes from Kum to Ispahan, and from Sultanabad to the south, a commencement should be made in the construction of roads along which carriages can be driven. These already exist in the plains, and operations could be first undertaken in those districts which present least obstacles to wheeled traffic. Lord Lansdowne believes that the attitude of the Persian Government will depend greatly on the possibility of convincing them that there is a serious intention of undertaking the work. It seems to him of great importance that efforts should be made with that object.

I am, &c.
(Signed) T. H. SANDERSON.

No. 207.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received November 20.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Lord George Hamilton, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of inclosures in a letter from the Foreign Secretary, Simla, dated 30th October, relative to the measures that are being adopted to suppress the illicit traffic in arms at Jibuti.

India Office, November 19, 1902.

Inclosure 1 in No. 207.

Government of Bombay to Government of India.

(Confidential.)

I AM directed to forward herewith, for the information of the Government of India, copy of a Confidential Memorandum, dated the 7th October last, from the Political Resident, Aden, and of its accompaniment, regarding the measures that are being adopted to suppress the illicit traffic in arms at Jibuti.

Inclosure 2 in No. 207.

Commander Pears to Political Resident, Aden.

"Perseus," at Aden, October 4, 1902.

I HAVE the honour to inform you that I returned to-day from Perim, where I heard that the French authorities at Jibuti have two armed dhows cruising off Obokh, to prevent dhows with arms proceeding to British and Italian ports. I do not know how much truth there is in this, but it agrees with other accounts I have received to the effect that the French have given strict orders that no dhows with arms are to go to British or Italian Protectorate ports.

2. I also heard at Perim that Turkish troops are stationed at intervals along the Arabian coast, between Turba and Ras-al-Ara, to prevent the landing of arms in that neighbourhood. Desiring to obtain confirmation of this statement for your information, I proceeded, after leaving Perim, to steam along that coast, but could see no signs of military posts or encampments, or, indeed, of habitations of any kind. Near Ras-al-Ara I observed four dhows at anchor, approached as nearly as the depth of water would permit, and sent boats to board and search them. These dhows (which were pearl fishers) stated that they were obtaining firewood, and I heard from them that, though there are Turkish troops at Turba, they knew of none to the eastward of that place. Darkness coming on prevented me from sending a boat ashore at Ras-al-Ara, as I had intended, so I was not able to obtain further information.

3. I found His Majesty's ship "Harrier" at Perim. This vessel (belonging to the Mediterranean Station) has been ordered to the Red Sea for the suppression of the Slave Trade and piracy, and she proposes to work two armed dhows as tenders. The Italian ship "Caprera" is engaged in the same service, as are also two Turkish gun-boats.

(Endorsed by Political Resident at Aden.)

(Confidential.)

Aden, October 7, 1902.

Copy forwarded, with compliments, to the Secretary to Government, Political Department, Bombay.

No. 208.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received November 20.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Lord George Hamilton, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of inclosure in a letter from the Foreign Secretary, Simla, dated the 23rd October, relative to M. Goguyer and the question of his expulsion from Muscat.

India Office, November 20, 1902.

Inclosure in No. 208.

Major Cox to Government of India.

(Confidential.)

Muscat, October 11, 1902.

Sir,

IN continuation of my letter of the 20th September, I have the honour to report details of a somewhat interesting interview which I had with M. Laronce on the 8th instant on the subject of Goguyer.

2. In my last Report I mentioned that my colleague was seriously ill. I used to visit him frequently during his illness, and on the occasion of one of such visits he spontaneously introduced the subject of M. Goguyer, and said that the man had received information from Paris of the negotiations on foot with a view to his expulsion, and was now making himself as offensive as he possibly could. It was bad enough, continued M. Laronce, when he was in good health, but now that he was ill it was intolerable to have to put up with it.

I then told him that a manuscript in Goguyer's writing had fallen into the hands of the Sultan, and that the latter was only waiting his recovery to take his opinion on it informally with a view to sending him a translation of it officially if he considered that it would be sufficient to bring about the expulsion of his countryman.

M. Laronce replied that as soon as he was better he would come and see me on the subject.

3. He called on me on the 8th instant, and did not himself refer to the matter; but as he had seen the Sultan since his recovery, I asked him if he had discussed it with His Highness, and, if not, whether he was prepared to do so now.

He replied that he had said nothing to the Sultan, nor had the Sultan broached the subject to him, but that as a matter of fact he candidly did not think it was any use his taking the matter up, as it was evident that his Foreign Office were much averse to

raising any awkward issue with reference to Goguyer, owing to the strong following which the latter had among a certain section of the French Chamber and press. He said that when Goguyer left Abyssinia, after doing three months' imprisonment at the instance of M. Lagarde, the French Representative with the Negus, a great agitation had been made by the French newspapers about his expulsion, and he himself had endeavoured to sue M. Lagarde and Government for compensation for wrongful expulsion, but that M. Lagarde being in a unique position, and having a strong following at home, was able to snap his fingers at him. He continued that the present French Foreign Office shrank from having a repetition of that incident now, especially in the case of the same individual. He then went on to inform me that Goguyer's chief supporter was the well-known Deputy, M. Étienne, who, again, had much influence with M. Combes, and also practically directed the politics of the "Dépêche Coloniale," through his friend M. Trouillet, editor, or one of the editorial staff of that paper. He added (and here he begged me to consider this information very private and confidential) that he was himself in a position of great embarrassment. He said: "I am a very humble official; I was only promoted from Chancelier (Dragoman) in order that I might be put into this appointment, and I have seen reason since I came here to take up the cudgels strongly against Goguyer. On the other hand, the man was brought here by my predecessor, M. Ottavi—a much senior man to me—was partially maintained by him, and was, and continues to be, a great friend and constant correspondent of his. M. Ottavi has been at home all the time I have been here, and has been giving him an excellent character to Government and other influential people, urging that he is a very clever, able, man, and an enterprising merchant, who, so far from meriting expulsion from Muscat, deserves all possible support as the plucky pioneer of French commercial enterprise in Oman."

I replied: "But surely, seeing that your Government know the man's history, and have, I think, admitted to the British Foreign Office that he is a bad character, M. Ottavi's efforts on his behalf are likely to do himself more harm than you."

He answered: "That may be partially true, but still I am very awkwardly placed, and I may tell you that I wrote last mail to an official in the French Foreign Office, whom I know intimately, unburdening myself freely, and telling him that, with M. Goguyer here, under existing circumstances my position in Muscat was altogether intolerable, and that I could not stand it much longer."

4. M. Ottavi, though the period of his furlough expired nearly three months ago, has not yet been reposted, and in the event of M. Laronce leaving Muscat on account of ill-health, or for other reasons, it seems possible that an attempt may be made by his supporters to get M. Ottavi sent back here. It is, perhaps, hardly likely that M. Deleassé would acquiesce in such a step, even under pressure from the highest quarter, but in any case I venture to urge that, without quoting M. Laronce, we now have sufficiently accurate information as to M. Ottavi's unscrupulous Anglophobe propensities to warrant His Majesty's Government demurring very strongly to his reappointment to Muscat, should such a contingency prove to be probable.

A copy of this letter will be duly forwarded to the Resident in the Persian Gulf.

I have, &c.

(Signed) P. Z. COX.

No. 209.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received November 20.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Lord George Hamilton, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of letters from the Resident at Aden relative to the Aden delimitation.

India Office, November 20, 1902.

Inclosure 1 in No. 209.

Political Resident, Aden, to India Office.

(Confidential.)

Aden Residency, October 30, 1902.

COLONEL WAHAB'S letter, Secret, dated Camp Dthala, the 25th October last, forwarded, with compliments, to the Secretary, Political and Secret Department, India Office, London.

(For Political Resident, Aden),

(Signed) R. S. POTTINGER, Captain.

Note.—A copy of this despatch has been forwarded to the Bombay Government.

Inclosure 2 in No. 209.

Colonel Wahab to Political Resident, Aden.

(Secret.)

Camp Dthala, October 25, 1902.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to draw your attention to Sir N. O'Connor's despatch No. 411, dated the 10th September last, in which he speaks of Jabal Mafari as one of the positions occupied by the Turks last autumn. Had he been informed of the actual circumstances under which it was taken, he would, no doubt, have insisted even more strongly on its evacuation as an absolutely essential preliminary to any further negotiations. It was first occupied by Arab levies in February, a few days after the arrival of the Commission at Dthala; and in spite of my remonstrances against such a violation of the actual status, a garrison of regular Turkish troops was sent there early in March, and has since been maintained. The facts were fully reported by me at the time, but the gravity of the incident seems to have been hardly sufficiently appreciated. I therefore beg that you will be good enough to again represent the matter to His Majesty's Government.

I have, &c.

(Signed) R. A. WAHAB, Colonel,

Commissioner, Aden Boundary Commission.

Inclosure 3 in No. 209.

(Confidential.)

Aden Residency, October 25, 1902.

COPY of Colonel Wahab's Secret letter, dated Camp Dthala, the 23rd October last, forwarded, with compliments, to the Secretary, Political and Secret Department, India Office, London. It covers the political diary of the Commission from the 15th to the 22nd October last, inclusive.

(For Political Resident, Aden),

(Signed) R. S. POTTINGER, Captain.

Note.—Copies of the diary have been forwarded to the Government of India, Foreign Department, and the Government of Bombay.

Inclosure 4 in No. 209.

Diary.

(October 15 to 22, inclusive.)

October 16.—A sub-surveyor, who has been working in the Azraki Valley, returned and reported that on his approaching the Mafari border village of Al Jarf, bugles were blown, and about a dozen Turkish soldiers came out to warn him off, on which he retired.

Interviewed Sheikh Abdallah-bin-Ahmed of the Mibragi, who says that about three weeks ago a Turkish emissary from Jabal Mafari came and made advances to him. He says he refused to listen to him, and threatened to shoot him if he did not go away.

Reported that the Kaimakam of Kataba has been removed, and replaced by Kalil

Bey, who is Hakki Bey's successor as Commandant of Kataba, and one of the three locally-appointed additional Turkish Commissioners.

Received a letter from the Sheikh Ali Mohsin Askar of the Upper Yafa, making pressing inquiries about the state of affairs between us and the Turks, and protesting that he alone has the right to be considered the Head of the Yafa.

At 8 P.M., Nasir-bin-Saif, the son of the Amir, who is acting for him in his absence, came to report that Jabal Harir was threatened with immediate attack by the Halmin, in alliance with a Yafa sub-section known as As Sakka, and to ask permission to go off at once to the aid of the people of Harir. He went off by moonlight with as many tribesmen as he could muster, about 200. Signal fire on Jabal Harir at night.

October 17.—Replied to Sheikh Ali Mohsin Askar, reassuring him about the intentions of the Government as regards the Yafa border, and requesting him to use his influence as Head Sheikh of the Yafa to prevent trouble among the tribesmen, such as this Jabal Harir affair.

In the evening a letter came from Nasir that as yet all was quiet, no attack having taken place.

October 18.—Captain Doveton went out to Ad Dhubiyat to try and communicate with Aden by heliograph. He was unsuccessful on account of exceptionally thick haze.

Nasir returned from Jabal Harir at 6 P.M., and reported that the trouble was at an end. He says that the enemy approached the foot of Jabal Harir, whereon he and his men fired into the air, and the enemy, hearing the sound, dispersed to their homes.

October 19.—The Turkish garrison of Jabal Mafari is reported to have been relieved by a similar number.

October 21.—Ali Abdallah Akil, of Dthi Hiran, came in to report that two men of Dthi Hiran are intriguing with the Turks; that after visiting Jalela they put up some heaps of stones on the hills north and south of Dthi Hiran, the object of which is not explained.

October 22.—Convoy left for Aden. Practice commenced on the new rifle range. It is said that the Sheikhs of all the Turkish frontier tribes have been summoned to Nadira, which place, it is rumoured, is to take the place of Kataba as the district centre.

Received a letter from Sheikh Ali Mohsin Askar expressing gratification at my letter of the 17th instant, and saying, with regard to the Harir affair, that no section of the Yafa could act without his sanction; also that his father, the Nikib Mohsin Askar, had come to Aden from Mokalla, and was returning to the Yafa country.

There is still no evidence of any intention on the part of the Turkish Commissioners of carrying out the orders alleged to have been sent to them by the Porte on the 17th September, nor any intimation that they have even received those orders.

(Secret.)

Camp Dthala, October 23, 1902.

Forwarded to the Resident at Aden for information.

(Signed)

R. A. WAHAB, Colonel,
Commissioner, Aden Boundary Commission.

Inclosure 5 in No. 209.

(Confidential.)

Aden Residency, October 31, 1902.

COPY of Colonel Wahab's Secret letter, dated Camp Dthala, the 29th October last, forwarded, with compliments, to the Secretary, Political and Secret Department, India Office, London. It covers the political diary of the Commission from the 23rd to the 28th October last, inclusive.

(For Political Resident, Aden.)

(Signed)

R. S. POTTINGER, Captain.

Note.—Copies of the diary have been forwarded to the Government of India, Foreign Department, and Government of Bombay.

Inclosure 6 in No. 209.

Diary.

(October 23 to 28, inclusive.)

October 26.—The Amir returned to Dthala after an absence of several months.

Interviewed Seyid Ali Radthwan, of Ad Dthubiyat. He says that he frequently receives verbal proposals that he should go either to Mavii or Mafara or Jihaf, with a view to entering into some agreement with the Turks; the last was about fifteen days ago; he always refuses.

The harvest here is just finished.

Nothing else of importance.

(Secret.)

Camp Dthala, October 29, 1902.

Forwarded to the Resident at Aden for information.

(Signed)

R. A. WAHAB, Colonel,
Commissioner, Aden Boundary Commission.

No. 210.

Sir A. Hardinge to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received November 20.)

(No. 71.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Tehran, November 20, 1902.

MY despatch No. 71 of the 17th April.

The Agent of the Sheikh of Mohammerah is in Tehran, and is pressing me to give him a reply to the questions put by him, as reported in my despatch above referred to.

When in London, I understood from your Lordship that there would be no objection to our assuring the Sheikh that we should not allow any foreign Power, on behalf of the Persian Government or otherwise—e.g., Russian naval or military forces—to depose or coerce him so long as he acted in accordance with our advice.

Will your Lordship authorize me to give this assurance to the Sheikh?

No. 211.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received November 21.)

Sir,

India Office, November 20, 1902.

WITH reference to your letter of the 8th instant I am directed by Lord George Hamilton to forward herewith a copy of a telegram from the Viceroy of India, dated the 15th November.

It will be seen that Lord Curzon assumes that the Persian Government has been informed regarding Major McMahon's escort, and that instructions will be issued by the Persian Government to their Customs officers to raise no difficulties.

I am, &c.

(Signed)

A. GODLEY.

Inclosure in No. 211.

Government of India to Lord G. Hamilton.

(Telegraphic.) P.

November 15, 1902.

I ASSUME that a communication has been made to Persian Government as to McMahon's escort, and that Customs officers in Seistan will have orders not to raise difficulties.

No. 212.

Foreign Office to India Office.

(Confidential.)

Sir,

Foreign Office, November 21, 1902.

WITH reference to your letter of the 8th instant relative to Salem Kemri, I am directed by the Marquess of Lansdowne to transmit to you a copy of a despatch from His Majesty's Ambassador at Paris,* forwarding correspondence between His Majesty's Consul-General in that capital and M. Piat in regard to Kemri's effects and his former servant Bachir.

Lord Lansdowne would suggest that the Resident at Aden should endeavour to ascertain what foundation there is for the claim made by M. Piat on account of sums alleged by him to have been advanced to Salem Kemri, and for the statements with regard to the previous history of the boy Bachir.

I am, &c.

(Signed) T. H. SANDERSON.

No. 213.

Sir N. O'Connor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received November 22.)

(No. 132.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Constantinople, November 22, 1902.

ADEN frontier.

I learn from the Porte that the Military Commandant in the Yemen informed the Turkish Government, under date of the 19th November, that the troops have been withdrawn to Jaleli, and that the evacuation of the four places mentioned has now been effected.

No. 214.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir A. Hardinge.

(No. 59.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Foreign Office, November 22, 1902.

I HAVE received your telegram No. 71 of the 20th November relative to Mohammedrah.

There are strong objections to giving a pledge of so positive and extensive a character as you suggest to the Sheikh. His Majesty's Government might be committed thereby to naval and military action of a very inconvenient character.

You should not, I think, go further than to inform the Sheikh that, so long as he continues to act in accordance with our advice and remains a faithful subject of the Shah, he will have the good offices and support of His Majesty's Government.

No. 215.

Sir N. O'Connor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received November 24.)

(No. 497.)

My Lord,

Constantinople, November 13, 1902.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch received from His Majesty's Consul at Jeddah relating to the state of affairs at Hodeidah, and recent Italian action in the Red Sea.

I have, &c.

(Signed) N. R. O'CONNOR.

No. 214*.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir A. Hardinge.

(No. 60.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Foreign Office, November 23, 1902.

THE departure of the British Arbitrator on the Perso-Afghan boundary question with an adequate escort is being hastened. You will be informed by the Viceroy as to his movements, and as to the number of men by whom he will be accompanied.

Please inform Persian Government, and ask that the Seistan Customs officers may be ordered to allow the party to proceed to their destination without hindrance.

Inclosure 1 in No. 215.

Consul Devey to Sir N. O'Connor.

(No. 83.)

Sir,

Jeddah, October 25, 1902.

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith copies of two letters received yesterday from Hodeidah respecting the state of affairs there.

Various vague reports have been reaching Jeddah during the last ten days that Italian war-ships were bombarding, or about to bombard, that port; and a rumour just brought from Suakin avers that Hodeidah (? meaning probably Medi) was bombarded two or three days ago.

It is not for me to presume to offer reflections upon Italian policy in the Red Sea, and my information is as yet very scanty. Still it may be observed that within ten days Italy has on two or three occasions threatened Hodeida with immediate direct castigation upon slight provocation. The Turk has not forgotten the high-handed action of the "Volturno" in June 1899. Whether this time it would not have been more simple and sufficient for Italy to compel payment of an indemnity (of 4,000*l.* demanded, as I am told) at Constantinople, instead of adopting the painful and offensive course now pursued, that Government alone can decide, knowing best its own true interests. One result of the bombardment will be increased fanaticism and hatred of Europeans on all this coast and at Mecca: even if the desired effect of destroying a nest of Arab pirates and smugglers be attained.

I here venture to submit some conjectures as to causes contributory to the present state of mischievous excitement, which may, perhaps, act as sidelights on the situation.

Hodeidah can be regarded as one of those Eastern towns where local faction bursts now and again into a vigorous blaze; just as at Van years ago, constant contention and bitter rivalry raged between the two families, Jameshji-Zade and Temir-Oglu. At Bagdad and Konia at various times a precisely similar condition of affairs has been observed, and, no doubt, other examples could easily be found. The local Governor usually favours one party and checks and represses the other, who exert themselves in all sorts of unscrupulous ways to procure the dismissal of that Governor in the hope of reasserting their power and influence under his successor. At Hodeidah the rival parties were Sureya Pasha and a Notable named Harazi, who was sent to Jeddah a prisoner three or four years ago, but was set at liberty within a few months. The bone of contention was the farming of the octroi duties of the town, which produced a considerable sum: before 1895 it was usual for Sureya Pasha to purchase annually the right to farm these dues at a low rate, not improbably employing bribes to support his tender; but Harazi, having entered the field of competition, both bidding and bribes ran high. Needless to enter into details of this conflict, but serious accusations were eventually lodged against Harazi with the result above mentioned. About two years ago Sureya Pasha, suffering from a painful disease, had to go to Egypt, where he was operated on, and treated successfully by a young Greek doctor. The Pasha engaged this physician to come to Hodeidah to attend him, promising protection and support, and in due course he was nominated Municipality Doctor. The rival party then directed their attacks against the protégé as a foreigner, and not provided with a Turkish diploma; but he at once, going to Constantinople, obtained the diploma and confirmation of his appointment.

The Quarantine Inspector being absent, his duties were apparently relegated to this doctor, who early last month suspected, or ascertained, the existence of cholera. Doubtless, the fear of the malady, and of quarantine, and of interrupted business, &c., would produce an excited state of public feeling, which Sureya Pasha's enemies may have been at pains to stimulate; for I hear that the doctor left the place. It will be remembered that ebullitions of dangerous excitement have attended various outbreaks of epidemics in Hedjaz, and probably Hodeidah may not remain wholly exempt. In such cases much depends on the watchfulness, tact, and goodwill of local authorities to prevent ill results.

The Vice-Consul reports again the presence of cholera, and probably considers the authorities were backward in revealing it on or about the 10th ultimo.

My conjectures above given and hastily set down may be entirely erroneous, and are likely to be inaccurate as to detail, but as they may be useful, I have the honour to send them.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. P. DEVEY.

Inclosure 2 in No. 215.

Vice-Consul Richardson to Consul Devey.

(No. 100.)

Sir,

Hodeidah, October 20, 1902.

I BEG to confirm my cablegram to you of to-day's date, informing you that I am unable to leave for Camaran, as my presence is urgently needed here.

On the 12th evening the Italian cruiser "Piemonte" arrived at Hodeidah from Venice, and was followed on the 15th instant by the Italian gun-boat "Caprera." At the same time, it was reported there were two other war-ships of the same nationality in this quarter of the Red Sea, the "Barberegga" [?] at Medi, and a fourth at Lohyeia.

The four above-mentioned ships were specially sent out by the Italian Government to suppress piracy in the Red Sea and to obtain redress from the local authorities for raids recently made by piratic Arab bands from Medi and the tribes of Beni Marwan and Beni Hakami on the Island of Dahlak, near Massowah.

Failing to obtain satisfaction after four days' negotiations with the local Mutessarif and the Vali of the Yemen, the Commander of the "Piemonte" presented an ultimatum to the Local Government on the afternoon of the 16th instant demanding:—

1. The surrender of the Chiefs of Medi and of the tribes of Beni Marwan and Beni Hakam, with their arms, property, and sambouks, on board the cruiser "Piemonte" by 8 A.M. on the 18th instant.

2. Or that an important Representative of the Government proceed on Medi on board the Italian war-ship with full powers to adopt measures for the capture and surrender of the above-mentioned Chiefs aided, if necessary, by the Italian forces. Should the Government refuse to comply with the first demand, the Italian Commander threatened to bombard Hodeidah, Medi, and Khor-el-Nahla at 8 A.M. on the 18th instant, or should the Chiefs be not delivered on the war-ship "Piemonte" at Medi five days after its arrival there, he (the Commander) notified that he would return to Hodeidah to execute his threat.

I cabled immediately to the Commander of His Majesty's ship "Harrier" at Perim, requesting his presence here to protect all British interests. The above-mentioned gun-boat arrived on the afternoon of the 17th instant, and is lying in port at present.

The ultimatum was replied to by the Local Government at 7 A.M. on the 18th instant, when Colonel Riza Bey and Fahrin Bey, a Secretary of the Yemen Vilayet, proceeded on board the "Piemonte" as Delegates on behalf of the Yemen authorities to accompany the Italian Commander to Medi, and take steps in co-operation with the Italian war vessels to capture the three Sheikhs demanded.

The Italian Commander accepted the reply of the Yemen Vilayet, and friendly relations have again been established between the Local Government and the Italian Consulate.

One hundred and fifty troops from this port and 250 from Lohyeia sailed for Medi on the 18th to assist the Italian Commander. Two battalions of infantry are also being moved in the direction of Medi.

The cruiser "Caprera" left for Massowah on the 18th evening, and the "Piemonte" sailed for Perim last night.

The town of Hodeidah has been in a state of excitement, and disquieting rumours were circulated up to last night.

Under these circumstances, I consider my presence at Hodeidah is urgently necessary.

I have cabled the subject of the ultimatum to His Majesty's Ambassador at the Porte, as also to the Naval Commander-in-chief at Malta. A detailed report on the above, together with a copy of the ultimatum referred to, will be forwarded to you in a few days for favour of transmission to His Majesty's Embassy and the Foreign Office.

I have, &c.

(Signed) G. A. RICHARDSON.

No. 216.

Sir N. O'Connor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received November 24.)

(No. 499.)

My Lord,

Constantinople, November 13, 1902.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith a copy of a despatch received from His Majesty's Consul at Damascus respecting the progress of the construction of the Hedjaz Railway.

An extract from the "Levant Herald" on the same subject is also inclosed.

I have, &c.

(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

Inclosure 1 in No. 216.

Consul Richards to Sir N. O'Connor.

(No. 92.)

Sir,

Damascus, November 4, 1902.

I HAVE the honour to report as follows concerning the progress made in the construction of the Hedjaz Railway, taking it section by section.

From Mezerib to the 4th kilom. the line has now been completed in every respect. From the 4th kilom. to the 13th kilom. (Dera'a), a second layer of ballast is required to make that part of the line also complete. From the 13th to the 30th kilom. again the line is completed. From the 30th to the 70th kilom., another layer of ballast is all that is required to render that part of the line complete; the sleepers and rails being already laid in this, as in the previously-mentioned 4th-13th kilom. section. From the 70th to the 94th kilom. there are twenty small bridges, so called, but the great majority of them are merely culverts, still to be made before this part of the line can be described as finished. From the 94th to the 114th kilom. the earthworks have been completed, and the sleepers and rails temporarily laid, though no ballast has been put down as yet. This is the extent of the work achieved on that, the principal, part of the line.

The stations on this more or less completed section of the line will be at Mezerib, Dera'a (13th kilom.), Nessib (27th kilom.), Mafrak (52nd kilom.), Khirbet-es-Samra (75th kilom.), Zerka (94th kilom.), and Amman (114th kilom.), of which Nessib, Mafrak, and Khirbet-es-Samra represent merely names given to certain spots, there being no villages or even hamlets in those localities; while even at Zerka, the actual village of that name is a long way from the line. At Amman, however, there is a village of considerable size, while Dera'a may almost be described as a small township. Only one of these stations, viz., that at Dera'a, is being seriously taken in hand, two-thirds of that structure being now completed, while the rest are represented merely by what are known as "maisons d'équipe," even some of these being only half-built. At Mafrak a large water-tank has been constructed; while the old Roman reservoir situated in the same place has been put into good repair, and so rendered serviceable, its capacity being estimated at 4,000 cubic metres.

In addition to this main section work is being carried on, on the Damascus-Dera'a part of the whole line, 5 kilom. from Dera'a backwards in the direction of Damascus being already completed. The work has been done entirely by two battalions of soldiers, who appear to have performed the task allotted them expeditiously and well. They are now making the earthworks from the 5th kilom. onwards (or rather backwards) towards Damascus. Reckoning from this end 64 kilom. of earthworks and ballast have been completed from Kadem (the Damascus terminus) to the village of Deir Ali, it now only remains to lay the rails. Seeing that the whole distance from this city to Dera'a is 123 kilom., there are only 59 kilom. still to be made.

As reported in a previous despatch 4,200 soldiers (five battalions) are supposed to be working on the line, though owing to sickness, of which there is a great deal, desertion, and other causes, I am informed that not much more than 3,300 men are actually engaged in work. In addition to their rations these men are, or should be, paid at the rate of 1 piastre for every cubic metre of work done, which those who should know inform me is not very generous pay. But even this pittance is not always forthcoming, and there is a good deal of discontent in their ranks in consequence.

I am informed that so far about £ T. 120,000 have been spent here, a sum which

represents money paid to the contractors, the salaries of engineers, assistant engineers and foremen of works, as well as the pay of the troops employed. A considerable portion of the Mushir Kyazim Pasha's salary, viz., £ T. 150 per mensem, has also been paid out of this fund, the remainder of his pay, viz., £ T. 200 per mensem, being sent direct from Constantinople.

It would appear that this functionary has made himself very unpopular of late by evincing a constantly increasing tendency to interfere with the engineers in matters of detail of which, of course, he is profoundly ignorant, and so an amount of friction has come into play which threatens to have the most serious consequences, not the least of which is the possibility of the resignation of Herr Meissner, the Chief Engineer himself, at the expiration of his two years' contract, which will, as a matter of fact, take effect very shortly. It is earnestly hoped, however, that he will not be compelled to take so regrettable a decision.

In addition to the £ T. 120,000 mentioned above as having been spent here, it may be calculated that another £ T. 170,000 to £ T. 180,000 have been expended at Constantinople (on rails, sleepers, hydraulic lime, a certain amount of rolling-stock, including four locomotives, &c.), making in all the considerable total of £ T. 300,000. If we take it for granted, as we are informed by the Press, that some £ T. 500,000 have been subscribed altogether, it will be seen that three-fifths of this total have already been spent, in return for which about 180 kilom. of railway, more or less completed, represent the work accomplished. This works out at £ T. 1,660 per kilom., or, in other words, at a little less than £ T. 2,410 per mile, which, judged by European standards, is decidedly cheap, though it must be remembered that the labour employed is comparatively cheap, especially that of the troops, that the country to be traversed presents very few engineering difficulties, and that the stations on the section of the line (more or less) completed have still to be built. Then, again, on the asset side must be placed a very large quantity of rails and sleepers already bought and landed at Beyrout, which are calculated as sufficient for another 40 kilom. of line. Moreover, the initial expenses in a large undertaking like this are a very serious item, a fact which should also be borne in mind. The result as a whole, therefore, may be considered as not altogether unsatisfactory.

I might mention in conclusion that Kyazim Pasha, consumed by a very creditable and intelligible desire to make the line as cheaply as possible, and encouraged very probably by the contemplation of the results obtained from the employment of troops on the construction of the line, proposed at a recent meeting of the Railway Commission that the Rédifs of this Army Corps should be called out and employed entirely on the works, to the exclusion of the contractors and the men, foreigners and natives, employed by them. This proposition, which received the approbation of the other members of the Commission, with the important exceptions of the Vali and Herr Meissner, the chief engineer, was referred to Constantinople, where, however, I hear, it has not been adopted.

The Vali informs me that the line will be taken as far as Amman within a few weeks, to a place called Katraneh in nine months from now, and to Ma'an within eighteen months. This, however, may be looked upon more in the light of a "pious opinion."

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. S. RICHARDS.

P.S.—I find that I have not explained that the Damascus-Dera'a section of the line does not pass through Mezerib, though that station is at present connected by rail with Dera'a. The reason of this is that when the construction of the line was commenced it was considered probable that the existing French line would be bought by the Turkish Government, but now that negotiations to bring about that result have practically ceased, it has been decided to take the new line straight to Dera'a without touching at Mezerib.

I might add that I hear that Herr Meissner has received telegraphic instructions to go and study the proposed line between Dera'a and Haifa, whither two battalions of troops are to be sent shortly to commence the construction of this railway. I have not, however, had time yet to verify the truth of this report.

W. S. R.

Inclosure 2 in No. 216.

Extract from the "Levant Herald" of November 10, 1902.

THE HEDJAZ RAILWAY.—The "Sabah" is informed that the measures ordered by the Sovereign in view of hastening the works of the Hedjaz Railway will result in their completion as far as Maan by the 1st September in next year, which will be the twenty-seventh anniversary of His Majesty's accession to the Throne. The distance between Mezerib and Maan is 800 kilom., or one-third of the entire length of the line. On this point being reached by the above date the average annual record of work executed since the beginning will be 200 kilom., which average, says our contemporary, is highly creditable considering that this essentially Islamic undertaking is carried on by Turkish engineers with Turkish money. The "Sabah" concludes its article by appealing once again to the generosity of faithful Mussulmans for the completion of an undertaking which is progressing so satisfactorily.

No. 217.

Admiralty to Foreign Office.—(Received November 24.)

Sir,

Admiralty, November 20, 1902.

WITH reference to previous correspondence, I am commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to transmit herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of a letter dated the 27th ultimo, from the Officer Commanding His Majesty's ship "Harrier," relative to the state of affairs at Hodeidah, &c.

I am, &c.

(Signed) H. J. VAN SITTART NEALE.

Inclosure in No. 217.

Commander Tower to Admiral Sir C. Domville.

Sir,

"Harrier," at Hodeidah, October 27, 1902.

IN continuance of my letter of proceedings I have the honour to inform you that I left Hodeidah at 9 P.M. October 20th, the town having been reported quiet by the Vice-Consul, and I arrived at Perim at noon the following day. Found there the Italian cruiser "Piemonte," coaling and provisioning, she having chartered the Perim Coal Company's launch to bring bullocks and sheep from Aden. She was to leave Perim at noon, the 23rd October, for Medi, off which port she was to be joined by the other three Italian war vessels to enforce further terms of their ultimatum.

2. On the 21st October I completed with coal (91 tons), and the Eastern Telegraph Company's steamer "Chiltern" arrived at 11:30 A.M.

3. The "Piemonte" at Perim had on board—

One Colonel of Ottoman troops, sent off as demanded at Hodeidah in terms of ultimatum, and he will command the 2,000 troops now being sent in Turkish transports from Hodeidah, Sana, and Loheiya to operate against the pirate tribes at Medi and their other haunts.

She also had on board the Colonel's Secretary, also three Bedouins of Beni Merwan; three Ashrafis—the same tribe who looted the Dahalak group of Islands, as reported in my letter No. 2—a Prince of Tajura, who, I am informed, is a noted dealer in slaves and exporter of arms. (This son of the Sultan of Tajura, I understand, was claiming French protection.)

These persons were all embarked at Hodeidah before "Piemonte" sailed for Perim. They having been sent off by the Turkish authorities.

The Italian Consul at Hodeidah was also on board "Piemonte" at Perim.

4. At 11 P.M., the 22nd October, I received the following telegram from Vice-Consul, Hodeidah:—

"Following cabled you from London:—

"'Harrier' to remain Hodeidah until further orders.'"

[1565]

The message was *en clair*, and unsigned, with only London post-mark, and, presuming it was from Admiralty, I telegraphed to you my No. 24, and left at 8 A.M., the 23rd October, for Hodeidah.

5. I communicated on my way with my armed dhow No. 2, lying behind Jebel Zukur, and arrived at Hodeidah at 7 P.M., shifting berth the following morning closer in.

I find the town quite quiet, and trade uninterrupted at present.

6. The Turkish transport "Kaiser," with 1,000 troops, four guns, and many mules, left on the 23rd October for Medi, calling in at Loheiya for more troops.

7. My two armed dhows meet me here on the 31st October; but I fear, for the present, they will not have much success while the Italians are about in such force.

8. His Britannic Majesty's Consul at Jeddah writes to me the 7th October that "a son of the pirate Bin Gobeish went on an expedition of revenge and piracy to Leet, with 150 men, and has committed more excesses, and the pirates are thought to be still hovering about Leet."

9. The pirate Bin Gobeish was killed, as reported in my letter of the 29th September, and my armed dhow No. 1 is in that neighbourhood.

10. The weather here, though very hot, is improving, and the health of the ship's company continues satisfactory.

I have, &c.
(Signed)

CYRIL TOWER,
Commander and Senior Naval Officer, Red Sea Division.

No. 218.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received November 24.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Lord George Hamilton, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of a telegram from the Viceroy, dated the 20th November, relative to the Perso-Afghan frontier dispute.

India Office, November 22, 1902.

Inclosure in No. 218.

Government of India to Lord George Hamilton.

(Telegraphic.) P.

November 20, 1902.

IN a telegram dated the 12th November, Major Benn reports from Seistan that on the 6th November he saw the Afghan authorities with reference to a report that the Akhundzada intended to destroy the Seistan Bund. They agreed that, pending arrival of the British Arbitrator, the conditions should not be altered. An undertaking to maintain the *status quo* was also given by the local Persian authorities, but the Tehran representative, Yamini Nizam, refrained from giving any assurance, and has now, through the Karguzar, protested against Benn's interference. The Helmund is still rising, and there is an adequate supply of water even in Miankangi.

(Repeated to Tehran.)

No. 219.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received November 24.)

Sir,

India Office, November 22, 1902.

I AM directed by Lord George Hamilton to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 12th instant, on the subject of a notification issued by His Britannic Majesty's Consul at Muscat concerning the registration of transfers of real property from or to British subjects or British-protected persons in Muscat.

I am to say that his Lordship concurs in the course which the Marquess of Lansdowne proposes to adopt in the matter.

A copy of the correspondence will be forwarded for the information of the Government of India.

I am, &c.
(Signed) HORACE WALPOLE.

No. 220.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received November 24.)

India Office, November 24, 1902.

Sir,

I AM directed by Lord George Hamilton to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 19th instant, forwarding a copy of Sir N. O'Connor's telegram No. 131 of the 18th, on the subject of the Aden Delimitation Commission, and, in reply, to inclose herewith a draft of a telegram* which, subject to the concurrence of the Marquess of Lansdowne, his Lordship proposes to send to the Government of India.

I am, &c.
(Signed) A. GODLEY.

No. 221.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received November 24.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Lord George Hamilton, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of a telegram from the Resident, Aden, dated the 24th instant, relative to the Aden delimitation.

India Office, November 24, 1902.

Inclosure in No. 221.

Resident, Aden, to Lord G. Hamilton.

(Telegraphic.) P.

Aden, November 24, 1902.

THE withdrawal of Turkish troops from Mafari, Jihaf, and Jabal Shahad is reported by Colonel Wahab, who adds that the Turkish Commissioners raise no objection to the return to Lakmat-as-Saleh of the expelled Sheikh, and states that the cordon round Arab levies south of Jaiela has been withdrawn. The British Commission, however, is not able to move about territory in dispute, and the inclusion of the Yaffai in the nine tribes is still denied by the Turkish Commissioners.

(Repeated to Government of Bombay.)

No. 222.

Sir A. Hardinge to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received November 24.)

(No. 72.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Tehran, November 23, 1902.

PROPOSED assurance to Sheikh of Mohammerah.

With reference to your Lordship's telegram No. 59 of yesterday's date, I fear that if we give to the Sheikh an evasive reply to his very definite questions it will convince him that he cannot count upon us with security and that, therefore, he will come to terms with the Russians, and that in the same way as has happened in Seistan, he will enable the new Russian Consul at Mohammerah to injure our trade and prestige there through the new Belgian Chief of Customs. It is true that we have already

See No. 235.

promised the Sheikh our good offices at Tehran, but these alone are not of much use with the power which Russia has obtained here through her loans. His Majesty's Government must be prepared to see Russian influence at Mohammerah supreme and active very shortly unless we are able to give him real confidence in our strength and resolution.

The significance of the recent appointment of a Russian Consul at Mohammerah, where there is absolutely no pretence of any Russian trade, is unmistakable.

No. 223.

Foreign Office to India Office.

Sir,

Foreign Office, November 24, 1902.

I LAID before the Marquess of Lansdowne your letter of to-day's date, transmitting the draft of a telegram which Lord G. Hamilton proposes to send to the Viceroy of India relative to the Aden delimitation.

I am to inform you, in reply, that his Lordship concurs in the terms of the proposed telegram, but that he suggests an addition to the penultimate paragraph, which would then run as follows:—

"As to Fitzmaurice, it seems probable that the negotiations would stand a better chance of success if conducted by him. What do you think his position on Commission should be relatively to Wahab?"

I am, &c.
(Signed) T. H. SANDERSON.

No. 224.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received November 25.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Lord George Hamilton, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of a telegram from the Viceroy, dated the 24th November, relative to the Aden delimitation.

India Office, November 25, 1902.

Inclosure in No. 224.

Government of India to Lord G. Hamilton.

(Telegraphic.) P.

November 24, 1902.

THE proposal of the Resident, Aden, in his telegram of the 16th November, to send up troops to Dthali seems very necessary, and has my support. The Aden column is ready to start, and can be reinforced by a battalion of native infantry which can be sent from India.

No. 225.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received November 26.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Lord George Hamilton, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of a letter from the Resident, Aden, dated the 12th November, and inclosure, relative to the proceedings of the Aden Delimitation Commissioners.

India Office, November 25, 1902.

Inclosure 1 in No. 225.

Political Resident, Aden, to India Office.

Aden Residency, November 12, 1902.

COLONEL WAHAB'S Secret letter, dated Camp Dthala, the 8th instant, to the address of the Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department, Calcutta, forwarded, with compliments, to the Secretary, Political and Secret Department, India Office, London.

(For Political Resident),
(Signed) J. S. ASHBY, *Lieutenant-Colonel.*

Note.—A copy of this despatch has been forwarded to the Government of Bombay

Inclosure 2 in No. 225.

Colonel Wahab to Government of India.

(Secret.)

Camp Dthala, November 8, 1902.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to report as follows on the meeting of the Joint Commission held yesterday morning:—

2.—(1.) Sixth meeting, the 7th instant. Colonel Mustafa Ramzi, Lieutenant-Colonel Ibrahim Seifi, and Adjutant-Major Zakariya Bey represented the Ottoman Government; Colonel R. A. Wahab and Major J. K. Tod the British Government.

(2.) Lieutenant-Colonel Ibrahim Seifi, having informed us the day before that they had received orders to co-operate with us in carrying out the demarcation to the north-east, and to withdraw their troops from Jabal Jihaf and Jabal Mafari, now produced a draft Protocol under five headings, as follows:

"The Commissioners on either side, according to orders received from their respective Governments, decide to act as follows:

"1. To commence the work of delimiting the line of demarcation from a point on the north-eastern limit of Dthala to the desert."

To this assent was given.

(3.) "2. To withdraw the Ottoman troops from four points, as below. This evacuation shall be made for the time being, and shall continue until the final decision of the line of demarcation. The four points in question are: Djebel-i-Djuhaf (Jabal Jihaf), Djebel-i-Mafari (Jabal Mafari), Lakmat-u-Salah, and Suhaf. The two last are not occupied; thus it only remains to evacuate Djebel-i-Djuhaf and Djebel-i-Mafari."

With regard to this paragraph, I informed the Ottoman Commissioners that the British Government would consider Lakmat-u-Salah as being in Turkish occupation until Seyid Ahmad—who has been a refugee in Dthala town since he was ejected by a Turkish force—was reinstated in possession of his house and lands in that village.

That the fourth place the evacuation of which was demanded by our Government is Jabal Shahad, immediately to the south-east of Jalela. To prove this, I showed the Ottoman Commissioners Sir N. O'Connor's despatch No. 411 of the 18th September, in which he reports that the evacuation of Jabal Suheb was promised by the Porte, and it was explained that "Suheb" was the name given to Jabal Shahad by the surveyor who made the map. The Ottoman Commissioners argued that they understood Suhaf to mean the southern part of the Shairi country, comprising the villages of Ad Dimnah, Al Markula, Al Haki, and Al Jarba. They regarded Jabal Shahad as an integral part of the lands of Jalela, but they undertook to apply for definite orders on this point.

(4.) "3. The evacuation of these two points shall only be carried out in the course of the day on which the Commissioners start for their new camps on the north-eastern limit of Dthala."

To this objected that the evacuation was demanded by our Government apart from any conditions, and as a preliminary to any action with regard to the work of demarcation. We could not, therefore, bind ourselves to anything more definite than that the move shall take place after the evacuation.

(5.) "4. If the Commissioners on either side are unable to agree upon the line of demarcation which it is desired to determine hereafter, a map shall be made jointly,

showing the two lines claimed by either side, and copies, certified by the Commissioners, shall be sent to the respective Governments. The object of this is the uninterrupted progress of the work of delimitation."

To this assent was given.

(6.) "5. The places evacuated for the time being by the Ottoman troops shall not be occupied either by Dthala, nor by Haushabi, nor by anyone from either side. Neither armed nor unarmed men shall be sent to these places or to other disputed points so as to produce an effect of occupation. Moreover, no troubles and intrigues shall be created in them such as may cause disorder. In short, the actual status of these places shall not be changed until the final determination of the line of demarcation."

To this objected that the status on the evacuation by the Ottoman troops should not be the existing status, but the status of the last year at the time of the commencement of the negotiations. The Ottoman Commissioners objected strongly to this, as it would involve the reoccupation by the Amir of Dthala of much of the territory in dispute. As they were very determined on this point, and, as a reversion to the status of last year seems to be hardly possible now without causing complications and friction, the point was yielded, and it was agreed that the present status should be maintained pending the final decision between the two Governments.

(7.) Proposed that, during the evacuation and before moving on to the north-east, our surveyors should, jointly with the Turkish surveyors, make a complete map of the disputed territory, to send to our respective Governments to help them in forming their decision. The Ottoman Commissioners said that they could not agree to this without orders from their Government, and they endeavoured to make conditions that the combined survey party should visit the Azraki, Mihrabi, and Ahmadi country first; that the evacuation of Jabal Jihaf and Jabal Mafari should be either wholly or partially deferred pending the making of this survey. In short, they seemed so determined to put so many difficulties in the way that it was finally determined to postpone the survey of this part of the frontier, and to compile from the existing maps on either side a map illustrating the situation, for the information of the two Governments. It was agreed that for this purpose Adjutant-Major Zakariya Bey, who is in charge of the survey work of the Ottoman Commission, should come to-morrow to co-operate with Lieutenant Tandy in the production of the map.

(8.) The Ottoman Commissioners asked where we proposed to move with a view to commencing the delimitation to the north-east. Replied that we should go to the neighbourhood of Lakamat-ash-Shaub and then to the neighbourhood of Kataba, so as to determine the starting-point of the border between the Turkish district of Mares and and Yafa sub-tribe of the Shaibi. Without directly opposing this, they suggested that it would not be the right direction to take as they claimed the Shaibi country and Jabal Harir as part of the Mares district, and said that, in order to properly examine the country through which they considered the frontier line should pass, they would need to go between Jabal Harir and the Halmin country, and so to the Wadi Bana. They denied having yet received orders to recognize the Yafa as one of the nine tribes, and spoke of the Mawsatta and the Dthube, the two principal Upper Yafa clans, as belonging to the Turkish district of Rada. Showed them the extract from Earl Granville's despatch of the 15th May, 1873, detailing the nine tribes with the Yafa among them, and translated to them Sir N. O'Connor's despatch No. 411 of the 18th September last, in which he writes that the Porte had agreed to recognize the Yafa as one of the nine tribes, and had promised to send the Ottoman Commissioners precise orders to this effect. Impressed upon them the futility of our attempting demarcation to the north-east while our respective views were so widely divergent, and urged them to obtain definite orders about the Yafa without delay.

(9.) The Ottoman Commissioners promised that they would proceed with the evacuation of Jabal Jihaf and Jabal Mafari at once, but said that a few days were necessary for preparations. It was agreed that another meeting should take place as soon as the evacuation was completed. The meeting was then adjourned.

3. It is evident that the attitude of the Turkish Commissioners has completely changed, and though they will endeavour to delay the evacuation of Jabal Shahad (or Suheb) as long as possible, they will eventually yield on this point. There must, however, be further delay in carrying out the delimitation to the north-east unless they are made to understand clearly that the Yafa and Aulaki are included in the nine tribes. They still persist in their claim to the Shairi tribe and the Amiri territory to the east and north-east of Jalela, though as expressed in the Marquess of Lansdowne's letter of the 18th August to the Chargé d'Affaires at Constantinople, this has always been regarded as "indubitably belonging of right to the Amiri tribes and constantly in the

undisputed practical possession of Amir of Dthala," and until they give way here it will be impossible to find a point of departure for the north-eastern section of the boundary: moreover, although they express their willingness to commence work on the understanding that the Commission shall visit and report on the lines as claimed by both parties I consider that it would be extremely undesirable to allow them, even accompanied by the British Commissioners, into a country so far from any part to which they have the smallest right as that shown by the yellow line on the sketch map submitted with my Secret letter of the 7th April, 1902.

4. I have hitherto received no instructions from His Majesty's Government as to the part of the Amiri territory which may now be fairly regarded as in dispute, that is, the villages north-west of Jalela and Jabal Jihaf, with the Humedi, Ahmadi, Mihrabi, and Azraki countries. Encroachments have been made on these districts from time to time by the Turks, and at one time the Aden authorities were under the impression that they were effectively occupied; this, however, was ascertained to be quite incorrect, first by Major Davies in December last year, and subsequently by the present Commission, which, after very full inquiry, has proved conclusively that the whole of these districts were, previously to the Turkish invasion in 1873, in the effective possession of the Amir, and that though temporarily lost to him in the disturbances immediately following that invasion, they were practically regained, and have for the last ten years acknowledged his supremacy, and paid him the usual revenues.

5. From the correspondence which has passed between the Embassy at Constantinople and the Foreign Office I infer that it is intended to reserve the settlement of this part of the boundary for future discussion by the two Governments, and as His Majesty's Government will probably desire fuller information based on actual survey regarding the border districts, it is very important that the Commission should have every facility for visiting them. On proposing this to the Turkish Commissioners, they replied that until the question was decided by the two Governments, the Commission was not at liberty to interfere there in any way, and on my pointing out the necessity of furnishing our Governments with maps on which to base their decision, I was at once met by a counter-claim on their part to visit any part of the country claimed by them, the Azraki country especially being mentioned; but as this would undoubtedly create a most unfavourable impression among the Arab tribes, I did not discuss the question further, and it was decided to prepare a preliminary map showing the lines claimed by both parties, from recent Turkish and British surveys, and to submit identical copies to our respective Governments as a basis for their decision. Pending this settlement, the situation in the disputed territory is still unsatisfactory; even when the promised evacuation is carried out, the status existing in 1901 immediately before the appointment of the Commission can hardly be restored without an admission on the part of the Turks of the Amir's rights, which would probably put them out of Court. At the same time, until this status is restored, the Amir will be unable to administer this part of his territory or to collect his revenues.

6. The Turkish officers seem determined to treat the disputed territory as their own, and to exclude us from it; it therefore seems desirable to decide on the Amiri boundary as early as possible. I trust that the information already submitted by me, together with the map which it is now proposed to compile, will be sufficient to enable His Majesty's Government to arrive at a decision. Further and more exact information is unobtainable without actual investigation on the spot; but as, under the circumstances explained in paragraph 2 (7) of this letter, this would undoubtedly tend to further delay and discussion with the Porte, I would not recommend it unless there are any points on which you consider fuller information indispensable.

7. Another reason for hastening a decision is that the Porte seems at present in a mood to accept the proposals of His Majesty's Government, while delay will certainly encourage the Turkish authorities to return to their previous policy of obstruction.

I have, &c.

(Signed) R. A. WAHAB, Colonel,
Commissioner, Aden Boundary Commission.

No. 226.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received November 26.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Lord George Hamilton, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of a telegram to the Viceroy, dated the 21st November, relative to the Aden delimitation.

India Office, November 25, 1902.

Inclosure in No. 226.

Lord G. Hamilton to Government of India.

(Telegraphic.) P.

India Office, November 21, 1902.

COMPLAINT was made on the 18th November by the Turkish Chargé d'Affaires relative to the proceedings of the British Commissioners for the Aden Delimitation. It was alleged that they were distributing repeating rifles to the tribesmen, were collecting camels in large numbers with a view to an expedition to the Yaffai country, and were bringing up two battalions of infantry with two guns, the force to be accompanied by Ibnafif, one of the Yaffai Sheikhs, who had been summoned to Aden. The reply given to the Turkish Chargé d'Affaires was that, though we did not believe that the alleged preparations had been made, we would make inquiry. We had, however, serious ground for complaint, in the manner in which the Turkish Commissioners were endeavouring to evade the execution of the instructions that had been sent to them. On this subject Sir N. O'Connor would be instructed to make representations, but for the protection of our interests we should be compelled, should this attitude be persisted in, to resort to measures which, in view of the existing state of affairs in Arabia, we were particularly anxious to avoid. Sir N. O'Connor has been instructed accordingly by the Foreign Office. With regard to matters complained of, please communicate with the Resident and report the facts. Any movement likely to complicate the situation at the present juncture should be avoided, and if necessary you should instruct the Resident in this sense.

No. 227.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received November 26.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Lord George Hamilton, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of inclosures in letters from the Foreign Secretary, Simla, dated the 23rd October and 6th November, relative to the visit of a French cruiser to Muscat.

Copies have been sent to the Admiralty.

India Office, November 25, 1902.

Inclosure 1 in No. 227.

Political Agent, Muscat, to the Government of India.

(Telegraphic.)

Muscat, October 20, 1902.

FRENCH second-class cruiser "Friant," about 4,000 tons, arrived this morning from China and Colombo.

Inclosure 2 in No. 227.

Political Agent, Muscat, to the Government of India.

(Telegraphic.)

Muscat, November 1, 1902.

FRENCH cruiser "Friant," after taking Consul to Sûr, left for Jibuti last night.

No. 228.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir A. Hardinge.

(No. 61.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Foreign Office, November 26, 1902.

MOHAMMERAH. I have received your telegram No. 72 of the 23rd November. In your despatch No. 71 of the 17th April you reported an application from the Sheikh's Agent for an assurance that Russian ships of war would not be permitted by this country to attack Mohammerah in support of any attempts to coerce the Sheikh on the part of the Persian Government.

I now understand, from your telegram No. 71 of the 20th November, that you recommend that this assurance should be extended so as to make it apply to coercion, whether by land or sea, either by the Persian Government or by any foreign Power.

You reported in your despatch No. 82 of the 11th May that the Agent of the Sheikh inquired whether an assurance of protection could be given to the Sheikh of Mohammerah, similar to that accorded to the Sheikh of Kuwait, which, as you are aware, is limited to a promise of the good offices of His Majesty's Government. In reply to your inquiry as to the form in which the Sheikh desired that this assurance should be given, the Agent asked for a promise that, so long as the Sheikh remained loyal, paid his taxes to the Persian Government, and observed the terms of his Agreement with them, His Majesty's Government would prevent the Persian Government from diminishing the present authority of the Sheikh, or otherwise causing him trouble.

A personal guarantee of this kind is open to obvious objections. It might at any moment be invoked by the Sheikh for the purpose of compelling us to support him against the Shah, whose subject he is, and it is not desirable to place him in such a position that, in the event of a threat from Persia with Russia behind her, he could demand our support both by land and sea.

On the other hand, the seizure of Mohammerah by Russia upon any pretext would certainly not be acquiesced in by His Majesty's Government.

There should be no doubt left as to this after the language used in my despatch No. 2 of the 6th January, which has been communicated by you to the Persian Government, and you are aware that Mr. des Graz, in his notes of the 17th September and the 11th October, copies of which were transmitted to me in his despatches Nos. 137 of the 8th October and 140 of the 11th, has again reminded the Persian Government of their engagement that no change will be made in the position of the Sheikh without previous consultation with His Majesty's Government.

Could not the Sheikh be informed of the substance of these announcements? It could be explained to him at the same time that the assurance already given to him in the terms of my telegram No. 59 of the 22nd November is practically identical with that given to the Sheikh of Kuwait.

More frequent visits of British gun-boats to the port will surely be the best means of maintaining our influence, and not the giving of personal assurances, which, if in general terms, afford no satisfaction, and which commit us to a very inconvenient extent, if precise.

No. 229.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received November 27.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Lord George Hamilton, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of inclosures in a letter from the Foreign Secretary to the Government of India, dated the 6th November, relative to the relations of the Yaffai tribe with the Aden Boundary Commission.

India Office, November 26, 1902.

Inclosure 1 in No. 229.

Government of Bombay to Government of India.

(Confidential.)

Sir,

Bombay Castle, October 28, 1902.

WITH reference to my letter dated the 15th October, 1902, I am directed to forward herewith, for the information of the Government of India, copy of a Confidential letter from the Political Resident, Aden, dated the 19th October, 1902, and of its accompaniment, relative to the relations of the Yaffai tribe with the Boundary Commission and a threatened attack by the Halmin, supported by a sub-section of the Upper Yaffai on Jabal Harir.

I have, &c.

(Signed) S. W. EDGERLEY,
Acting Chief Secretary to Government.

Inclosure 2 in No. 229.

Brigadier-General Maitland to Government of Bombay.

(Confidential.)

Sir,

Aden Residency, October 19, 1902.

I HAVE the honour to forward a letter from one of the leading Yaffai Sheikhs, addressed to Major Tod. Colonel Wahab is replying to the effect that the Dthali boundary question is occupying our whole attention at present, but that he may rely upon the Government eventually defining the Yaffai boundary so as to protect him from Turkish interference. Colonel Wahab adds, "the continued uncertainty of the Government's intentions with regard to a Treaty with the Yaffai makes it very difficult to know how to deal with them, and they are naturally dissatisfied and impatient at the vagueness of the only assurances we are able to give them."

2. It is also reported that the Halmin, supported by a sub-section of the Upper Yaffai, were threatening an attack on Jabal Harir. The Amir of Dthali started off on the night of the 16th, with several hundred men, and as no firing had been heard, it was hoped that a conflict had been averted. Colonel Wahab was, however, apprehensive that the Turks would take advantage of the affair to make some aggressive move.

3. The Halmin are a small tribe, occupying the hills east and south-east of Dthali. They are, I understand, within the jurisdiction of the Amir, even as admitted by Turks, and the threatened attack on Harir appears to be in pursuance of a long-standing local feud.

I have, &c.

(Signed) P. J. MAITLAND.

Inclosure 3 in No. 229.

Sheikh Ali Mohsin Askar, of the Mawsatta Clan of the Upper Yafa, to Major Tod.

(Translation.)

(After greetings.)

6 Rajab, 1320.

WE inform your Honour that, hearing of the justice of the great British Government, and of its good treatment of its friends, we became desirous of the friendship of the great Government. We went to Aden some time ago, and met the Governor Maitland, and after obtaining his permission to depart, returned well satisfied with the understanding arrived at through our honoured brother, &c., Abd-ar-Rab. Since our return, we have received no letter from you; though you came near to our country you neglected to write to us. We now request you to tell us the truth of the news about you and the Turks, as regards the boundaries, and how matters stand with you. We hope that you are in health and that your affairs prosper. It is usual for the Government to inquire about, and not to neglect those who are friendly to it. This is the first matter; secondly, we learnt that some liar came to you, and told you that we are not the father of the Yafa, and its Sheikh—

I, the son of the Nakib of Yafa! If you have believed such a liar, summon him before you and write to me, and I will come to you, and the Government will judge which is the true man and which is the liar. An answer is requested.

(Signed)

J. K. TOD, Major.

Camp Dthala, October 16, 1902.

No. 230.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received November 27.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Lord George Hamilton, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of a telegram to the Viceroy, dated the 24th instant, relative to the Perso-Afghan boundary dispute.

India Office, November 26, 1902.

Inclosure in No. 230.

Lord G. Hamilton to Government of India.

(Telegraphic.) P.

India Office, November 24, 1902.

THE Foreign Office have been informed of the matter referred to in your telegram of the 15th instant, and they inquire on what date Major McMahon is likely to arrive in Seistan, also what route is to be taken by him and what is the constitution of his escort? Sir A. Hardinge should be kept fully informed by you.

No. 231.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received November 27.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Lord George Hamilton, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of a telegram from the Viceroy, dated the 23rd instant, relative to the Perso-Afghan boundary dispute.

India Office, November 26, 1902.

Inclosure in No. 231.

Government of India to Lord G. Hamilton.

(Telegraphic.) P.

November 23, 1902.

AS I anticipated in my telegram of the 27th October, the Ameer merely informed the British Agent in Cabul that he had already sent me a suitable answer on the subject of the remonstrances referred to in my telegram of the 21st October. I am now again addressing His Highness, explaining the misconception under which he rests with regard to the Goldsmid boundary, pointing out the serious danger of a collision with the Persians if no settlement of the matter is arrived at, and urging him to issue instructions without delay for facilitating Major McMahon's journey. He may possibly refuse to accept arbitration, and may contend, as before, that there is nothing to be arbitrated about since he accepts the red line with which the boundary is marked in Goldsmid's map. Moreover, in consequence of the rising of the Helmund, an ample supply of water is now afforded to both parties, and if the Ameer orders his men to cross the old bed the dispute is no longer acute. It may, therefore, be somewhat difficult to maintain a case for compulsory arbitration.

No. 232.

Sir A. Hardinge to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received November 27.)

(No. 73.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Tehran, November 26, 1902.

I SAW the Sheikh of Mohammerah's Agent again to-day, who pressed hard that we should give a secret written assurance that so long as the Sheikh and Arabs followed our advice we should prohibit a further curtailment of their rights.

I replied that it was difficult, while friendly negotiations were in progress with the Persian Government, to give the Sheikh secret pledges, and I tried to put him off with general professions of friendship. I gave him a gilt box containing 40% and promised to consider the question, but it was evident that he was much disappointed. It has come to my knowledge that the Russian Legation is already intriguing with Haji Reis at Tadjar, and I am sure that a plain intimation on our part, both to the Persians and Arabs, at the start of the Russo-Belgian Customs régime at Mohammerah, that under certain conditions we are ready to protect our friends and interests by force, will be the best security against any attempts to cajole or bully the Sheikh into accepting a veiled Russian Protectorate. I shall see the Grand Vizier in a few days respecting these matters, and I should like to make such a representation to him.

As to the Sheikh, if we decide later on to abandon Mohammerah to the Russians, we can always advise and help him to come to terms with them, our protection of him being conditional on his following our advice. He is not afraid of the Shah, but only of the Russians. The former's authority is defied throughout Arabistan, with the exception of Mohammerah, by tribes who have been in open rebellion since last year, and he possesses neither the troops nor the money necessary to cope with the disorders.

No. 233.

Admiralty to Foreign Office.—(Received November 27.)

(Confidential.)

Sir,

Admiralty, November 27, 1902.

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to transmit, for the information of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, copy of a telegram, dated the 26th instant, from the Commander-in-chief, Mediterranean.

I am, &c.

(Signed) EVAN MACGREGOR.

Inclosure in No. 233.

Admiral Sir C. Domville to Admiralty.

(Telegraphic.)

Malta, November 26, 1902.

FOLLOWING telegram received from "Speedy," at Hodeidah:—

"Armed dhow No. 1 has been attacked by pirate Wahalla, latitude 16° 40'. Force withdrawn want of ammunition. Dhow casualty: 1 Soudanese wounded; pirate: 10 killed, 30 wounded. Request permission to proceed thither take energetic action with the Turkish authorities stamp out this nest."

Following telegram sent:—

"Proceed as proposed, completing dhow[s] with ammunition. Act with Turkish authorities, and take any steps which seem necessary to redress this outrage."

No. 234.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir A. Hardinge.

(No. 62.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Foreign Office, November 27, 1902.

YOUR telegram No. 73 of the 26th instant relative to Mohammerah has crossed my telegram No. 61 of yesterday. I think the latter should enable you to make an intimation such as you desire both to the Sheikh and the Grand Vizier.

No. 235.

*India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received November 28.)**India Office, November 27, 1902.*

Sir,

I AM directed by the Secretary of State for India to forward, for submission to the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, the inclosed copy of a telegram from the Viceroy, dated the 24th instant, supporting a proposal contained in the telegram from the Resident at Aden of the 16th instant, of which a copy was inclosed in this Office letter of the 18th instant. The Resident, in his telegram of the 16th, said:—

"He (Wahab) asks that when the movement north-eastward takes place, a force not less than that of the Turks at Kataba, say 400 men, of whom some should be British, with four guns, should be stationed at Dthali. We should be clearly within our rights in doing this, as Dthali is not disputed territory. I concur with Wahab, and think it very necessary to have part of Aden column at Dthali whenever his party leaves the plateau."

Lord George Hamilton agrees with the Viceroy that it is desirable that the escort of the British Commission should be strengthened by stationing a force of the nature suggested at Dthali as a preliminary to the departure of the Commission to carry out the demarcation to the north-east. The object of making this addition to the total strength of the escort with the British Commission is in no way aggressive, but to provide the necessary support for the escort actually accompanying the Commission during the demarcation. Lord George Hamilton has no doubt that His Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople will explain the action which it is proposed to take in a manner which will prevent any risk of its being misunderstood by the Turkish Government and the local Turkish authorities.

Lord George Hamilton proposes, with the concurrence of the Marquess of Lansdowne, to agree to the suggestion of the Viceroy, and directs me to inclose the draft of a telegram,* which he would send to his Excellency.

I am further directed to forward copy of a telegram from the Resident at Aden, dated the 25th instant, which it will be observed has been repeated by him to His Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople in accordance with the request conveyed in your letter of the 19th instant. A telegram has been sent to the Resident at Aden asking what is the strength of the escort at present with Colonel Wahab, and what is the nature of the relief escort being moved up.

I am, &c.

(Signed) A. GODLEY.

Inclosure 1 in No. 235.

*Government of India to Lord G. Hamilton.**November 24, 1902.*

(Telegraphic.) P.

THE proposal of the Resident, Aden, in his telegram of the 16th instant, to send up troops to Dthali seems very necessary, and has my support. The Aden column is ready to start, and can be reinforced by a battalion of native infantry which can be sent from India.

Inclosure 2 in No. 235.

Resident, Aden, to Government of Bombay.

(Telegraphic.) P.

November 25, 1902.

I HAVE forwarded to Colonel Wahab a copy of your telegram of 24th instant, conveying the Secretary of State's telegram of 21st relative to the complaint of the Turkish Chargé d'Affaires. Wahab will furnish a reply. There has, however, been no distribution of rifles to the tribes on our part, and the only troops moving up are the relief escort. The Yaffai Chiefs have relations with the Aden Residency, and visited Wahab some time ago. The Yaffai are among the nine tribes, and demarcation to the north-east cannot be carried out without the British Commissioners moving through the northern part of the Yaffai country.

(Repeated to Secretary of State and to Constantinople.)

No. 236.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received November 28.)

WITH reference to Foreign Office letter of the 24th instant, the Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Lord George Hamilton, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of a telegram from the Secretary of State to the Viceroy, dated the 25th instant, relative to the Aden delimitation.

India Office, November 28, 1902.

Inclosure in No. 236.

Lord G. Hamilton to the Government of India.

(Telegraphic.) P.

India Office, November 25, 1902.

PENDING receipt of your views on the Resident's three telegrams of the 11th, 12th, and 16th instant, relative to the Aden delimitation, their substance was transmitted to Sir N. O'Connor, who has telegraphed to the Foreign Office as follows:—

[Repeats Sir N. O'Connor's telegram No. 131 of November 18, 1902.]

In my opinion, unless Sir N. O'Connor's proposals are adopted, the difficulties of delimiting a line in Dthali territory may prove to be insuperable, whereas an agreement as to the acutely controversial part of the line will be easier of attainment by diplomatic means after delimitation north-eastwards has taken place. With the concurrence of Lord Lansdowne, I am therefore disposed to act on the proposals of Sir N. O'Connor, and to instruct the Commission accordingly, viz., to present to the Turkish Commission a specific demand to proceed forthwith with the delimitation north-eastward, the point of departure being east of the plateau and outside the area of controversy, and the line to the west of this point being reserved for subsequent settlement.

In view of the representations made by Sir N. O'Connor, you will doubtless agree with me that it is impossible to entertain the proposal made by the Resident in his telegram of the 12th November to authorize and aid the Amir of Dthali to re-establish his authority in territory which the Turks have occupied since demarcation began. I should be glad of your views on all the points mentioned. If the negotiations were conducted by Fitzmaurice the prospects of success would probably be better. What do you think should be his position on the Commission relatively to Wahab?

No. 237.

Sir A. Hardinge to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received November 28.)

(No. 74.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Tehran, November 28, 1902.

PROPOSED assurances to Sheikh of Mohammerah.

With reference to your Lordship's telegram No. 61 of yesterday's date, I fear that I have perhaps not made quite clear the Sheikh's position. The Belgian Customs are regarded—I think wrongly—by him as being the thin end of the wedge in a deliberate attempt on the part of the Persian Government to destroy the autonomy of the Arabs. He therefore appeals to us to give him an assurance that we shall not allow such an attempt to succeed, as we are the strongest and nearest Power. He will turn to the Russians if he cannot get an assurance from us, and they will have no difficulty in giving it to him, owing to their control of Persia's purse, which enables them to prevent the Shah from making any use of force, as it is only by their aid that he can bring pressure upon the Sheikh. A rupture with the Persian Government is, I think, the last thing he wants, so long as he is able to avoid it, and an assurance to him in his capacity of Chief of the Arabs and not personal to himself, which would make it impossible for him to force our hands, would have been desired.

I have already told the Sheikh that we cannot protect him in the same sense as we do the Sheikh of Koweit, as we regard him as a Persian subject. I would now suggest that I should address a letter to the Sheikh, promising in general terms to afford him our good offices between himself and the Persian Government. I would remind him that I had been told by his agent that he was not afraid of the Shah, but had asked whether, if the ships of a foreign Power (or, if preferred, Russia alone) made an attack on Mohammerah, whether as an enemy or as a pretended friend of Persia, we should interfere and protect it by force. I would state that in this case, provided that his actions in the past had been and continued to be in conformity with the advice of His Majesty's Government, we should so interfere.

I would suggest informing the Grand Vizier that we reserved our rights to take such naval action at Mohammerah as we considered our interests to require, should the Persian Government, disregarding our views, adopt towards the Arabs any measures which were likely to disturb peace and interfere with trade on the lower Karun.

If we wish our words to have any effect, I hardly think we can say less than this to either party.

I shall send a rifle and a present of money to the Sheikh.

No. 238.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received November 29.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Lord George Hamilton, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of inclosure in a letter from the Foreign Secretary, Simla, dated 30th October, relative to the Russian Bank at Meshed.

India Office, November 27, 1902.

Inclosure in No. 238.

Lieutenant-Colonel J. F. White to the Government of India.

(Telegraphic.)

Meshed, October 20, 1902.

PLEASE refer to Mr. Clarke's letter, dated 11th September.

The Russian Bank at Meshed is offering banking facilities in Seistan, and has offered to make payment of 1,000 tomans to British Indian subjects at Meshed, against the receipt of the same sum from their agent in Seistan.

It will be very difficult to ascertain for certain, long beforehand, whether the bank means opening a regular branch in Seistan. I think that only a native sub-agency is contemplated at present.

No. 239.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received November 29.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Lord George Hamilton, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of inclosure in a letter from the Foreign Secretary, Simla, dated the 30th October, relative to the call of a Russian merchant-steamer at Muscat.

India Office, November 27, 1902.

Inclosure in No. 239.

Major Cox to the Government of India.

(Confidential.)

Muscat, October 13, 1902.

Sir,
WITH reference to paragraph 3 of my letter, dated the 20th September, I have the honour to report that the Russian merchant-steamer "Truvor" called here on the 10th instant on her way home, and the captain, in company with M. Goguyer, called on the Sultan and pressed for permission for M. Goguyer to fly the flag of the Odessa Company or other commercial flag; it is not quite clear which.

His Highness refused on the ground that the agents of other lines trading with Muscat had never done so, and he did not wish to start any new precedent in this direction.

I have, &c.
(Signed) P. Z. COX.

No. 240.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received November 29.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Lord George Hamilton, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of inclosures in a letter from the Foreign Secretary, Simla, dated the 30th October, relative to disputes between the Haushabi Sultan and the Sultan of Lahej.

India Office, November 27, 1902.

Inclosure 1 in No. 240.

Government of Bombay to Government of India.

(Confidential.)

Bombay Castle, October 2, 1902.

IN continuation of my Confidential letter dated the 14th July last, and with reference to Mr. Wood's letter dated the 9th September last, I am directed to forward herewith, for the information of the Government of India, copy of a Confidential letter from the Political Resident, Aden, dated the 19th September last, on the subject of the amicable settlement through the mediation of the Amir of Dthala, of the disputes between the Haushabi Sultan and the Sultan of Lahej.

2. I am to state that the Political Resident's Report appears to justify the view held by the Governor in Council that any large measure of interference was unnecessary, and that the Political Resident has been instructed not to withhold, pending the further orders of the Government of India, the two months' stipend due to the Haushabi Sultan if he is satisfied that suitable restoration and satisfaction have been made by the Sultan for the recent outrages committed by him.

Inclosure 2 in No. 240.

Lieutenant-Colonel Abud to Government of Bombay.

(Confidential.)

Aden, September 19, 1902.

IN continuation of my letter dated the 22nd June last, I have now the pleasure to report to Government that the war between the Abdali and the Haushabi has now come to an end, and that, through the mediation of the Amir of Dthala, peace has been made between the two tribes.

2. His Highness Sir Ahmed Fadhl reported the settlement to me by letter, and being aware that both the Haushabi and the Amir of Dthala were at Lahej, I asked them to meet me at Sheikh Othman yesterday, which they accordingly did. I took this step so as to ascertain clearly the terms of the settlement and in order to be able to warn the Haushabi that if there was any secret understanding underlying the terms of settlement such as he alleged existed as regards the Agreement of 1895, he should at once acquaint me with it, otherwise no notice would be taken of any allegation of the existence of such Agreement in the future. The Haushabi denied the existence of any such understanding underlying the present Agreement. It was the alleged existence of such Agreement underlying the settlement of 1895 that brought about the war that has now terminated, and I considered it most important that there should be no excuse for any such similar allegation in the future.

3. In the presence of the Sultans I therefore took down the terms of the present settlement, and subsequently read them over and obtained their assent to the correctness of my transcription. The main provisions of the settlement are that the Agreement of 1895 should stand good, modified, however, as follows:—

That the Abdali should treat the Haushabi in every respect as if he were his son; that the Haushabi should send for his stipend through the Abdali, who would endorse the request; that the Haushabi should continue to collect his transit dues in Lahej by means of his own men; that the Haushabi is responsible for the safety of caravans proceeding from Nobat Dakim to Al Anad, while the Abdali is to be responsible for those proceeding from Al Anad to Nobat Dakim.

4. The last provision is important, as it was whilst passing this part of the caravan road that caravans were molested, and which formed the subject of considerable correspondence between this Residency and the Chiefs concerned, who both repudiated responsibility for the safety of the caravans passing through it, and it is possible that the settlement was hastened by a verbal hint which I caused to be given to the Abdali that unless the safety of caravans passing along this strip of country was guaranteed, it might be necessary for this Residency to see that they were not molested.

5. I think the settlement now made will prove to be satisfactory, and reflects credit on the good sense of the Chiefs, who were brought together through the mediation of the Amir of Dthala. I have accordingly directed that the stipend of the Haushabi should be continued to him, as he has either compensated the travellers who were looted on the road or has caused the property to be restored to them.

Inclosure 3 in No. 240.

Government of India to Government of Bombay.

(Confidential.)

Simla, October 28, 1902.

Sir,
I AM directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter in the Political Department dated the 2nd October last, regarding the amicable settlement of the disputes between the Haushabi Sultan and the Sultan of Lahej.

2. In the circumstances reported, the Government of India have no objection to the payment of the two months' stipend due to the Haushabi Sultan, provided that the Resident at Aden is satisfied that suitable restoration and satisfaction have been made by the Sultan for the recent outrages committed by him.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. B. WOOD.

No. 241.

Sir N. O'Connor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received November 29.)

(No. 133.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Constantinople, November 29, 1902.

I INFORMED Porte of the act of piracy at Khor-el-Wahla, referred to in your Lordship's telegram No. 167 of yesterday, and asked that the local authorities might be instructed immediately to take measures, in concert with His Majesty's ship "Speedy," for the punishment of the pirates.

The Ottoman Chargé d'Affaires in London has been informed that the Turkish authorities were ready to co-operate, but that it was requested that the place should not be destroyed or burnt, and the text of the telegram instructing him to the above effect was communicated to me by Tewfik Pasha.

No. 242.

Hamid Bey to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received November 29.)

LE Chargé d'Affaires de Turquie présente ses compliments au Marquis de Lansdowne, et, d'ordre de son Gouvernement, a l'honneur de porter à la haute connaissance de la Seigneurie la communication suivante:—

Le Vali du Yemen télégraphie que le Commandant du bateau Anglais "Speedy," qui se trouve actuellement à Hodeïda, s'est rendu, avec le Consul d'Angleterre, auprès du Gouverneur intérimaire de cette ville pour lui annoncer qu'à l'arrivée dans le port de Horelvahle, sis au nord de Midi, d'un Sanibouk battant pavillon Britannique, un grand nombre de pirates l'ont attaqué à coups de feu et lui ont causé de sérieuses avaries, blessant grièvement un homme de l'équipage. De ce Chef, le Commandant a présenté au Gouverneur, et le Consul a télégraphié au Vali pour formuler au nom du Commandant, les demandes suivantes:—

1. Destruction de Horelvahle;
2. Pour obvier aux difficultés qu'auraient les autorités à effectuer des préparatifs militaires à cet effet, et en vue de prévenir tous retards, l'exécution de cette mesure devait être dévolue, avec le consentement du vilayet, au dit bâtiment Anglais;
3. Envoi à bord de ce bâtiment de deux Délégués, l'un militaire et l'autre civil, pour se rendre à Horelvahle, muni de pleins pouvoirs et ayant pour instructions de se conformer aux désirs et avis justes et légitimes du Commandant.

Le Vali ajoute qu'aussitôt avisé du fait, il a pris les dispositions nécessaires pour l'envoi d'un bâtiment et de troupes chargées de poursuivre activement et d'arrêter les coupables.

Les autorités Impériales Ottomanes ne manqueront pas de déployer tous leurs efforts et d'appliquer toutes les mesures déjà adoptées après l'incident de Midi, en vue de la répression énergique de la piraterie; mais des mesures excessives telles que la destruction d'une localité, que le Gouvernement Italien lui-même n'avait pas demandé lors du dernier incident, ne sauraient évidemment être acceptées par la Sublime Porte.

Hamid Bey est donc chargé par son Gouvernement de rappeler à sa Seigneurie la nécessité d'attendre le résultat des mesures adoptées et des efforts déployés par les autorités Impériales en vue de l'arrestation et de la punition des coupables, ainsi que de la répression de la piraterie et de la prier de vouloir bien transmettre, le plus tôt possible, au Consul Britannique à Hodeïda, ainsi qu'au Commandant du "Speedy," des ordres en conséquence.

*Ambassade Impériale de Turquie, Londres,
le 29 Novembre, 1902.*

No. 243.

Foreign Office to India Office.

(Confidential.)

Foreign Office, November 29, 1902.

Sir,

I HAVE laid before the Marquess of Lansdowne your letter of the 17th instant, inclosing a despatch from the Government of India, in which it is suggested that steps should be taken to reoccupy the old telegraph buildings at Elphinstone Inlet on the Isthmus of Maklab, and that the strip of coast between Khor Kalba and Dibba should be regarded as part of the territory of the Chief of Shargah, with whom His Majesty's Government have Treaty relations.

I am to state, for the information of Lord George Hamilton, that Lord Lansdowne will consider these proposals, but that he has thought it desirable in the first instance to consult the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, whose observations he will await before expressing any opinion on the subject.

I am, &c.
(Signed) T. H. SANDERSON.

No. 244.

Foreign Office to Admiralty.

(Confidential.)

Foreign Office, November 29, 1902.

Sir,

WITH reference to my letter of the 19th July last, inclosing a Memorandum of the proceedings at a meeting held at this Office to discuss the question of a naval base in the Persian Gulf, I am directed by the Marquess of Lansdowne to transmit to you a copy of a despatch from the Government of India,* which has been received from the India Office, making further proposals in connection with this subject.

It will be seen that the Government of India suggest the reoccupation of some old telegraph buildings at Elphinstone Inlet, on the Isthmus of Maklab, and also the recognition of a portion of the eastern coast as belonging to a Chief with whom His Majesty's Government have Treaty relations.

Lord Lansdowne will be obliged if the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty will favour him with their observations on these proposals.

I am, &c.
(Signed) T. H. SANDERSON.

No. 245.

Foreign Office to Admiralty.

Foreign Office, November 29, 1902.

Sir,

WITH reference to your letter of the 27th instant, I am directed by the Marquess of Lansdowne to transmit to you a copy of a note from the Turkish Chargé d'Affaires,† calling attention to certain action said to have been taken by the Commander of His Majesty's ship "Speedy," in consequence of the recent piratical attack on a British armed dhow on the Arabian Coast in the neighbourhood of Hodeidah.

I am to suggest, for the consideration of the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, that inquiry should be made by telegraph as to the facts of the case.

I am, &c.
(Signed) T. H. SANDERSON.

No. 246.

Mr. Erskine to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received December 1.)

(No. 149.)

My Lord,

Tehran, October 27, 1902.

WITH reference to Mr. des Graz' despatch No. 132 of the 16th September, I have the honour to transmit herewith an extract from a despatch I have received from His Majesty's Consul-General at Tabreez, describing the arrival of His Majesty the Shah at Astara on his return from Europe.

The Russian Consul-General at the last moment decided not to proceed to Astara, although all his preparations for the journey had been made.

Mr. Wood had, however, already started.

I have, &c.

(Signed) WILLIAM A. F. ERSKINE.

Inclosure in No. 246.

Consul-General Wood to Mr. Erskine.

[Undated.]

(Extract.)

ON the 30th I was informed that His Majesty would arrive at about 11 o'clock A.M., and would be received in state. I occupied the small marquee tent erected for me within a few yards of the Persian end of the Astara pontoon bridge, the Vali Ahd's tent being some yards in the rear on the river bank.

Here I had the pleasure of affording shelter to the Governor-General, the Amir Nizam, the Governor of Talish, the Amir Toman, the Governor-General of Gilan, Nassir-es-Sultaneh, and several other officials, whose comfort in this respect had not been attended to, until nearly 4 o'clock P.M., when the shouts of the people on the Russian side, and the hurried rallying of the Russian soldiery, announced the approach of the Persian Monarch.

On alighting from his carriage, His Imperial Majesty, flanked by the Atabeg-i-Azam, the Vizir-i-Durbar, and other personages of his suite, returned the salute of the Russian troops and people, stopped a few moments to receive the compliments of the Russian Commander and the officials of the Russian Customs, and then advanced upon the bridge. Turning once again to acknowledge the acclamations of the troops and people, His Majesty then walked across to Persian soil.

By this time the Vali Ahd, the Amir Nizam, and I, surrounded by a few of the principal officials, had taken up our places on the bridge, and saluted His Majesty as he approached.

On His Majesty coming up to us the Vali Ahd threw himself at his feet, and the Amir Nizam bent low. His Majesty, taking no notice of his son's demonstration of affection and utter self-abandonment, seeing me, kindly beckoned me to approach him, when he asked after my health, and expressed his pleasure at seeing me at Astara. I at once welcomed His Majesty upon his safe return to his country and people in suitable terms, and the Vali Ahd having resumed a standing position, whilst the Shah presented General Nicolaieff and the principal Russian officers who had accompanied him through his journey, His Majesty proceeded to his carriage, and we all returned to the different quarters provided for us.

That evening I visited the Atabeg-i-Azam, who spoke with great pleasure of the reception which had been given to the Shah in England, and stated that both His Majesty and he hoped that the bonds of friendship and common interests, so long existing between England and Persia, would be much forwarded, improved, and strengthened by the visit to our country.

On the following day, the Shah having intimated that he would receive me officially, I proceeded in uniform to His Majesty's lodgings.

His Majesty, who appeared to have greatly benefited in health by his journey, seemed very pleased to see me, inquired most kindly as to the troubles of the passage of the Astara Pass, and the slight injury I had sustained on the way.

He spoke most warmly of the kindness shown to him by our gracious Sovereign the King, and of the great courtesy and friendly demeanour towards him of the members of the Royal Family.

His Majesty had evidently been greatly impressed by some of the sights he had seen, such as the artillery display at Aldershot. The "looping of the loop" at the Crystal Palace had also caused His Majesty much surprise, and he referred to it as a most astonishing, as well as dangerous, proceeding.

Towards the end of the interview His Majesty asked me to convey to Lord Lansdowne his compliments and the expression of his warm regards. This request was again repeated after His Majesty, having said that he desired that I would accept, as a souvenir of the occasion, a gold watch with an enamelled portrait of His Majesty on one cover and the Lion and Sun on the other, gave me my *congé*, with kindly-expressed wishes for a safe and pleasant journey home.

His Imperial Majesty departed for Resht on the 2nd instant.

I now think I may add a few remarks as to various incidents in connection with the Shah's return through Russian territory and his arrival in his own country.

In the first place, I regret to say that I have not yet been able to discover the real reasons which prevented my Russian colleague from proceeding to offer the Shah the congratulations due to His Majesty on his return. As I have previously reported by telegraph, M. Pakhitonoff was ready to start, and intended going "chapar."

His agent at Ardebil actually rode out to Sarab, two stages from Ardebil, to meet his Chief, but was recalled by a telegram which followed him from that place, and instructed to proceed only a short distance thence, accompanied by Russian subjects or protégés, to meet the Vali Ahd.

The Russian Consul-General's absence gave rise, naturally, to many conjectures, and was much commented upon by the natives.

There were but few preparations made in Russian Astara to welcome the Shah, and it is a fact that owing to the discourtesy of the Russian Customs, His Majesty's baggage animals, as well as those of the Vali Ahd and other Persian functionaries, were maintained for two days on the rank grass they could pick up, to which their attendants added, in many cases, the chopped-up reed fences of the various compounds.

M. Mornard, the Chief of the Persian Customs at Astara, had ordered a shipment of provender from Baku, but the steamer carrying it delayed coming in. The weather was fine at sea, so people were confirmed in their suppositions that a slight was intended, especially as the Russian Custom-house officials, when the boat dropped her anchor, against previous arrangements, naturally, in their waters, would only allow some thirty odd sacks of corn to be carried over to the Persian side, pretexting the lateness of the hour, the absence of any formal request from the Persian authorities for the passage of the stuff, &c., and all this notwithstanding the intervention and expostulations of General Nicolaieff.

No. 247.

Mr. Erskine to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received December 1.)

(No. 150. Confidential.)

My Lord,

Tehran, November 1, 1902.

I HAVE the honour to report that in the course of an interview which I had yesterday with his Highness the Atabeg-i-Azam, his Highness asked me whether I could give him any information as to the projected railway from Quetta via the Nushki route, to what place it would be carried, and at what date its completion might be expected. I replied that I had no precise information on the subject, but believed that it was intended shortly to build a railway from Quetta to Nushki.

I asked him whether he knew anything of a proposed Russian line to Meshed. His Highness replied that he had received no application for such a Concession from the Russian Government.

The Grand Vizier expressed his great desire to see railways established throughout Persia, but said that it was the intention of the Persian Government that such railways should be constructed solely on commercial as opposed to political principles, and that while they hoped that foreign capital would be forthcoming for their construction and working, they would keep the control of them in their own hands.

In reply to my inquiry as to whether he did not anticipate considerable internal opposition, his Highness replied that he did not think that much hostility would be aroused, as the advantages which would be derived from railways were now recognized by the more influential classes throughout Persia.

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His Highness further stated that at his recent interview with Count Lamsdorff at Kursk, he had informed him that Persia would not agree to a further renewal of the railway agreement with Russia, which would terminate in 1910.

I have, &c.
(Signed) WILLIAM A. F. ERSKINE.

P.S.—The Grand Vizier has since given a different account of his conversation with Count Lamsdorff. He informed Mr. Griscom that he had requested his Excellency to proceed as soon as possible with the construction of railways in Persia, and that the latter had expressed his willingness to take the matter into consideration.

W. A. F. E.

No. 248.

Mr. Erskine to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received December 1.)

(No. 152.)

My Lord,

Tehran, November 3, 1902.

WITH reference to Mr. des Graz' despatch No. 139 of the 11th ultimo relative to the new Customs arrangements on the Karun, I have the honour to report to your Lordship that on the 15th ultimo I asked the Mushir-ed-Dowleh whether he could give me an answer to Mr. des Graz' note of the 12th ultimo, in which in accordance with the instructions contained in your Lordship's telegram No. 50 of the 10th ultimo, he had requested that customs should continue to be collected at Ahwaz and Shuster until a fresh agreement in the matter should be arrived at. His Excellency said he had sent it to the Atabeg-i-Azam and did not expect an answer for some days.

I replied that the matter was urgent as merchandise was accumulating at Mohammerah and the trade of the Karun was being seriously interfered with.

I pointed out that the situation was entirely due to the action of the Persian Government in ignoring their pledges to His Majesty's Government and in suddenly inaugurating a completely new system without even giving any warning either to His Majesty's Government or to the merchants on the spot, of the intended change. His Excellency admitted that previous notice should have been given but excused himself on the ground that the matter had been done by the Grand Vizier and the Customs Administration without his knowledge, and further that Sir Arthur Hardinge had informed M. Naus that he would not raise any objection to the new arrangement.

I had previously seen the Acting Administrator of Customs who said it was quite impossible to collect the customs elsewhere than at Mohammerah as he had no one to send for the purpose. He said he would be willing to send orders to the Customs at Mohammerah to treat such cargo as had already arrived with leniency, only opening a few cases, to prevent the importation of prohibited articles, and accepting Messrs. Lynch's certificates for the value of the remainder.

I informed him that I thought this would not meet the case in view of the precise instructions received from your Lordship, and I suggested that, if he had no official to send, Messrs. Lynch should themselves collect the duties from the merchants at the ports of destination and forward them together with their certificates to Mohammerah.

M. Priem, however, declined to entertain this suggestion.

On the 29th October I received a note from the Mushir-ed-Dowleh, copy of which is inclosed, in which his Excellency renews M. Priem's proposal.

I also received a further note, copy of which I also inclose, notifying officially that henceforth customs will only be collected at Mohammerah. A similar note has been addressed to the other foreign Representatives.

At an interview with the Grand Vizier on the 31st ultimo I repeated the arguments I had used to the Mushir-ed-Dowleh, and reminded His Highness of the instructions sent by him to the Governor of Arabistan on the 29th May, 1891, to collect the Customs at Ahwaz and Shuster and of his verbal assurances to Sir H. D. Wolff in 1890.

His Highness admitted having given these assurances but argued that the arrangement then come to was a purely temporary one to suit the conditions then existing which had since entirely changed.

The Customs had, he said, since then, been reorganised and they were now only

completing the abolition of internal customs-houses which had already been effected throughout Persia.

He added that as no inconvenience had arisen from their abolition elsewhere there could be no hardship or loss in the present case.

I pointed out that the conditions of trade on the Karun, where goods were carried straight to their destination by steamer without reloading, were entirely different from those governing trade with other inland places, but said I preferred not to discuss this question as I was only instructed to press for the observance of the former system until a fresh agreement was come to, and that this must be left for negotiation between himself and Sir Arthur Hardinge on his return to Tehran.

His Highness promised to speak to the Mushir-ed-Dowleh and M. Priem on the subject as he had not yet had time to study it thoroughly.

M. Priem informed me the following day that he had been instructed by the Grand Vizier to send orders to Mohammerah that goods already arrived at Mohammerah were to be sent to their destination accompanied by a Customs employé, the only condition being that Messrs. Lynch should themselves declare and collect the duty in order to obviate any unnecessary delay.

I have the honour to inclose a copy of M. Priem's telegram to the Director of Customs at Mohammerah, which he has since sent me.

This arrangement, although only referring to goods which have reached Mohammerah up to this date, will relieve the situation for the moment and I trust your Lordship will approve my having accepted it as a purely temporary measure in view of the fact that Sir A. Hardinge will arrive here shortly.

It will, no doubt, be possible to prolong this arrangement until the matter is finally settled, and I thought it better not to enter into further discussions which would only have caused more delay and a further accumulation of merchandise at Mohammerah.

I have, &c.
(Signed) WILLIAM A. F. ERSKINE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 248.

Mushir-ed-Dowleh to Mr. Erskine.

October 29, 1902.

(Translation.)

THE Legation letters dated the 4th and 19th instant regarding customs dues on merchandise of Messrs. Lynch have been received. Although I verbally informed you and you are aware of all the discussions with the Customs, I would now also inform you in writing that, as formerly there were custom-houses in all the districts (vilayets) of the Empire, it was possible that the Customs should levy dues at the place of destination. At that time this business was arranged with native and foreign subjects; with Messrs. Lynch the same procedure also was followed, and if a telegram also was sent, it was in view of this same consideration that at that time there were custom-houses established at Shuster and Dizful, and it was possible that customs should be levied at those places; but now that the customs of the said districts (vilayets) have been entirely abolished, and a Customs Bureau established at the frontier only, and all subjects, Persian or foreign, pay customs dues at the frontier, it is not possible that the customs dues on the merchandise of Messrs. Lynch should be levied at the place of destination, because, besides the fact that this is contrary to the Customs Law and in contradiction with the usage (followed) with all foreigners and natives, there is no Customs Bureau at the other places, and it is quite impossible for the Customs Administration to carry out these laws [sic]. But with regard to the representations which you made that the merchandise of Lynch was transported before the notice of this procedure and you requested that the business should be done by reference to the "factures" [sic] as formerly, I spoke to the Director of the Customs, according to my promise, and in order to accept the request of His Majesty's Legation, he agreed that for this time only the said loads (cargoes) should be considered according to the "factures," but, as the Customs officials, in view of the prohibition of prohibited articles, such as instruments (weapons) and inflammable articles, &c., are, in accordance with this Law of the 5th Ramazan, obliged to inspect, some of these packages which the Customs themselves will select will be visited, and for the remainder of the packages, for the sake of facility, they will levy according to the "factures;" and as regards the future, they will proceed (according to) the contents of the general letter to the same purport which has been addressed to all the Legations, and with the contents of which His Majesty's Legation has become acquainted.

Inclosure 2 in No. 248.

Mushir-ed-Dowleh to Mr. Erskine.

October 29, 1902.

(Translation.)

AS the customs in the Karun district have been divided from the former farmers, and has become a part of the Ministry of Customs, and a special Director has been appointed for Mohammerah by the Government, I have therefore the honour to notify and inform you that from this date the Bureaux of Shuster, Dizful, &c., have been done away with, and that now customs dues will be levied in the port of Mohammerah only.

Inclosure 3 in No. 248.

M. Priem to Director of Customs at Mohammerah.

Le 3 Novembre, 1902.

(Télégraphique.)

PRÉVENEZ Dambraïn que colis importés consignation Lynch et se trouvant actuellement Mohammerah peuvent exceptionnellement être transportés directement à Ahwaz ou Schuster, où déclaration devra être effectuée par Lynch et vérification opérée par deux agents douane Mohammerah qui accompagneront transport endroits susdit. Toutes formalités devront être accomplies dans quinzaine.

No. 249.

Mr. Erskine to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received December 1.)

(No. 153. Confidential.)

My Lord,

Tehran, November 3, 1902.

WITH reference to Mr. des Graz' despatch No. 138, Confidential, of the 9th October, I have the honour to report to your Lordship that, in the course of a recent conversation with the Grand Vizier, I inquired if there was any foundation for the persistent rumours which were circulating here, that during the Shah's visit to Europe arrangements had been made for a further advance by Russia.

His Highness said there was absolutely no truth in such statements, and that all his efforts were now to be directed towards reorganizing the finances of Persia, including the Customs and the Maliat.

He saw little prospect of being able to repay the loans already contracted, and said that nothing but some extraordinary circumstance would induce him to make a third loan.

He admitted that he would consider a third visit of the Shah to Europe as coming under this heading, but hoped that there would be no question of this for many years.

A secret informant, however, states that while he was at Enzeli, awaiting the Shah's arrival, consignments of over 2,000,000 tomans, in the new 5-kran pieces, arrived there from Russia, and that on his way back to Tehran he met an official of the Russian Bank going down to take over the money.

He says that this official informed him that 12,000,000 roubles' worth of this coinage had been minted at St. Petersburg, and that all the Banque des Prêts had to do in the matter was to receive the money and hand it over to the Persian Government, adding that it was a present from the Emperor of Russia to Persia, and not a loan.

M. Grube is also said to have made a similar statement at a banquet given by him at the Russian Bank.

My informant states that this money has been given to the Persian Government to help them to tide over their troubles in Seistan with the Afghans, and that a portion of it is to be used to oust from currency the notes of the Imperial Bank of Persia.

In connection with Seistan, he asserts that the Persian Government contemplates shortly sending to Khorassan a force of twelve regiments of 600 men each and some cavalry, ostensibly to over-awe the Turkomans, but in reality to be ready for contingencies in Seistan.

I have, &c.

(Signed) WILLIAM A. F. ERSKINE.

No. 250.

Mr. Erskine to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received December 1.)

(No. 154.)

My Lord,

Tehran, November 8, 1902.

WITH reference to your Lordship's telegram No. 49 of the 6th ultimo, I have the honour to transmit herewith copies of a note and a private letter addressed by Mr. des Graz to the Mushir-ed-Dowleh urging the inadvisability of increasing the number of troops in Seistan at the present juncture.

On pressing the Mushir-ed-Dowleh for a reply, his Excellency said he had referred the matter to the Grand Vizier.

On receipt of your Lordship's telegram No. 54 of the 30th ultimo, I represented the matter to the Grand Vizier and urged that in view of the critical state of affairs on the Perso-Afghan frontier any increase of troops was to be deprecated as being likely to excite the Afghans and possibly provoke them to hostilities. At the same time I reminded His Highness of the obligation of the Persian Government not to take up arms unless the friendly offices of His Majesty's Government should fail in their effect.

His Highness replied that it was obvious that if they wished to go to war with Afghanistan they would certainly send a larger reinforcement than 400 men. He assured me, however, as I had the honour to report in my telegram No. 66 of the 1st instant, that he would inquire into the matter and that if he found that the troops were being sent to Seistan in excess of the numbers required to relieve the regiment now there, he would at once have them stopped in order that the garrison might remain at its present strength.

I subsequently received a note, copy of which is inclosed, from the Mushir-ed-Dowleh, merely stating that the Kaini Regiment would be dismissed on the arrival of the Karay Regiment.

I therefore addressed a further note to his Excellency, copy of which I have the honour to inclose, pointing out that even if the Kaini Regiment were dismissed, the garrison would still be increased by 400 men and requesting its reduction to its former numbers in accordance with the assurances given me by the Grand Vizier.

I have the honour to transmit a copy of the Mushir-ed-Dowleh's reply to this note stating that orders have been sent to reduce the garrison to its former strength.

I have, &c.

(Signed) WILLIAM A. F. ERSKINE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 250.

Mr. des Graz to Mushir-ed-Dowleh.

(Private and Confidential.)

October 2, 1902.

I HAD wished to communicate to your Excellency to-day, verbally, through Mr. Grahame—I am still too ill and weak to go out myself—rumours which have reached me from Meshed in connection with the dispatch from Khorassan to Seistan of the Karaya Regiment. When I spoke to your Excellency on this subject, about a month ago, your Excellency assured me that the Karaya Regiment, 500 foot and 100 horse-men, was about to proceed to Seistan to relieve the Kaini Regiment, which was to return to head-quarters for drill; that there was no intention on the part of the Persian Government of making any increase in the number of its forces in Seistan; and, further, that the Karaya Regiment was destined for service in the interior of, and not on the frontiers of, Seistan. About the same time, his Highness the Sepah Salar made a similar statement in conversation to Major Napier.

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According to the rumours now current in Meshed, it is alleged that a regiment from Birjand has been already sent to relieve that Kaini Regiment which was to be withdrawn from Seistan, and that the dispatch to that province of the Karaya Regiment will materially increase the Persian forces now quartered there.

These rumours, probably in an exaggerated form, have, I understand, reached the ears of the Afghan authorities, who would appear to contemplate sending—and may, perhaps, have already done so—further troops to Chikansur.

As I am convinced, from the language used to me by your Excellency, that it is your Excellency's earnest wish to avoid any action which might directly or indirectly tend to unsettle the condition of affairs on the frontier, I consider it my duty to inform your Excellency, in the most friendly way, of these rumours which have reached me, leaving it to your Excellency's enlightened judgment to consider whether the present moment is an opportune one or not for making any such movement of troops in Seistan which might possibly be misinterpreted by the Afghans.

I place this question under your Excellency's consideration without loss of time, as I understand that the Karay Regiment dispatched from Khorassan on the 14th Jemad II might still be detained at Birjand, if the Persian Government thought it advisable.

Inclosure 2 in No. 250.

Mr. des Graz to Mushir-ed-Dowleh.

October 7, 1902.

M. le Ministre,

I HAD the honour of bringing to your Excellency's notice, in my private letter of the 2nd instant, the rumours current at Meshed of an increase of the Persian troops in Seistan, and I deprecated the action of the Persian Government, and indicated that if these rumours were correct, the fresh troops could still be detained at Birjand.

There has been a further report that a regiment has been dispatched from Kerman to Seistan.

I am informing your Excellency in another note of the steps now being taken by His Majesty's Government for an arbitration in the question of the recent dispute on the Perso-Afghan frontier, and I now have the honour to inform your Excellency that I have received a telegram from His Majesty's Government instructing me to warn the Persian Government of the great importance of doing nothing to complicate the situation by increasing their forces in Seistan pending the arbitration.

Inclosure 3 in No. 250.

Mushir-ed-Dowleh to Mr. Erskine.

November 2, 1902.

(Translation.)

I HAVE made myself acquainted with the contents of the private letter of His Majesty's Legation with regard to the appointment of the Karaya Regiment to Seistan, and a telegram has been sent to the Seistan authorities to dismiss the soldiers of the Kaini Regiment, which was there formerly, after the arrival there of the Karaya Regiment and the Khorassan cavalry.

Inclosure 4 in No. 250.

Mr. Erskine to Mushir-ed-Dowleh.

November 4, 1902.

M. le Ministre,

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your note of the 2nd instant, informing me that orders have been sent to dismiss the soldiers of the Kaini Regiment after the arrival in Seistan of the Karaya Regiment and the Khorassan cavalry.

While thanking your Excellency for this action, I have the honour to point out that, according to the information which has reached His Majesty's Government from their Agents on the spot, the Kaini Regiment only numbers some 500 men, whereas the Karaya Regiment, being sent to replace it, together with sowars, number 600. Further, that troops to the number of 300 are being sent from Birjand. Your Excellency will thus perceive that, according to this information, the troops on the frontier are being increased by 400 men in spite of the dismissal of the Kaini Regiment.

His Highness the Atabeg again was good enough to give me a verbal assurance last Friday that he would order the withdrawal of any troops in excess of the numbers of the troops previously on the frontier, and I telegraphed His Highness' promise to His Majesty's Government.

I feel sure, therefore, that the Persian Government, recognizing equally with His Majesty's Government the very great importance of doing nothing to provoke a conflict on the frontier, will not fail at once to issue instructions for the reduction of the new garrison to its former dimensions.

Inclosure 5 in No. 250.

Mushir-ed-Dowleh to Mr. Erskine.

November 8, 1902.

(Translation.)

SEISTAN troops.

I have received and perused your letter of the 4th November last, and now I have to inform you that the Ministry of War has been written to to send infantry and cavalry according to the number of infantry and cavalry that were previously in Seistan.

No. 251.

Mr. Erskine to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received December 1.)

(No. 155. Confidential.)

Tehran, November 8, 1902.

My Lord,

WITH reference to Mr. des Graz' despatch No. 131 of the 16th September, I have the honour to report that, notwithstanding the intrigues which have been in progress among the clergy and certain of the Ministers, the position of the Atabeg-i-Azam appears to be considerably stronger than before the journey to Europe.

On the arrival of the Shah at Astara on his return journey, his Highness is said to have requested permission to resign and return to Europe, producing, as the reason for his request, a Petition to His Majesty signed by numerous influential Mujtahids and other malcontents, demanding his Highness' dismissal.

The Shah is reported to have replied that he would himself deal with the petitioners, and that as long as he reigned the Atabeg-i-Azam should remain as his Grand Vizier.

I also learn that the Shah, before entering Tehran, received a large number of Princes, Ministers, and other Persian Notables who had gone out to meet him, and made them a speech in which he eulogized the Grand Vizier, and stated that he could never sufficiently express his gratitude for the great services he had rendered his country.

There are many rumours of impending changes of Ministers and Governors, but it is very difficult to get reliable information, as every one is unusually reticent.

Among other rumours, it is said that the Ain-ed-Dowleh, Governor-General of Tehran, has fallen under the displeasure of the Grand Vizier for having intrigued against him during his absence, and that he will shortly be banished to Kerbela. He has incurred great hostility among the various guilds of merchants owing to his enormous extortions during the summer.

The Firman Firma is reported on all sides to be about to return to Persia, but His Majesty's Consul at Bagdad informed me not long ago that he shows no signs of any intention to leave that place.

The clergy have so far shown no disposition to move, nor does it appear that any serious opposition on their part is to be anticipated, as they are, I believe, divided into two camps, the one for, and the other against, the Grand Vizier.

I have, &c.

(Signed) WILLIAM A. F. ERSKINE.

No. 252.

Mr. Erskine to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received December 1.)

(No. 156.)

My Lord,

Tehran, November 10, 1902.

WITH reference to Mr. des Graz' despatch No. 141 of the 12th ultimo, relative to the proposed arbitration by His Majesty's Government on the Perso-Afghan boundary question, I have the honour to transmit herewith a copy of a note from the Mushir-ed-Dowleh in answer to Mr. des Graz' note of the 7th ultimo.

As the Persian Government did not appear to have rightly understood the proposals of the Government of India, and, in order to prevent any possible misunderstanding as to the functions of the Arbitrator, I thought it better to address to the Mushir-ed-Dowleh a note, copy of which is inclosed, putting the matter more clearly.

I have now received a further note from the Mushir-ed-Dowleh, a copy of which I also inclose, stating that, as reported in my telegram No. 69 of to-day's date, the Persian Government agree to the proposals of the Government of India for the appointment of an Arbitrator and to the reference of the question to your Lordship for final decision, should the Award of the Arbitrator not be accepted, on the understanding that the decision shall be in accordance with the terms of the Goldsmidt Award.

I have, &c.

(Signed) WILLIAM A. F. ERSKINE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 252.

Mushir-ed-Dowleh to Mr. Erskine.

(Translation.)

November 2, 1902.

IN answer to your letter of 6th Rejab, and your statement that they propose to appoint an Arbitrator, who, together with an Engineer and an officer, may give advice as to various technical points in regard to the course of the Hirmand, the above matter has been submitted to His Imperial Highness the Shah, who said that there was no harm in their sending these officials to inspect those points, but there must also be present on the spot an official on the part of the Persian Government, and the basis of the Agreement which is to be given must not be in contradiction with the Agreement (Award) given by the Goldsmidt Commission, 1872, and for this purpose the Persian Government official will be present there by the time of the arrival of the British officials, and as regards the arbitration of Lord Lansdowne, Minister of Foreign Affairs, alluded to in the closing portion of your note, it is clear, on the understanding that this Award also should not be outside (deviate from) the contents (or conditions) of the Agreement above mentioned.

Inclosure 2 in No. 252.

Mr. Erskine to Mushir-ed-Dowleh.

M. le Ministre,

November 3, 1902.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge receipt of your Excellency's note of the 2nd instant, relative to the proposed appointment by the Government of India of a Commissioner to arbitrate on the frontier difficulty between Seistan and Afghanistan.

It would appear from your Excellency's note that one point in Mr. des Graz' note of the 7th October was, perhaps, not very clearly expressed, and that a misapprehension has arisen on the subject of the functions of the proposed Arbitrator.

The proposal of the Government of India is to appoint an Arbitrator. This Arbitrator will be accompanied by a Surveyor, an Intelligence Officer, and an irrigation Engineer, to advise him on technical points connected with the course of the Helmand.

The Arbitrator will be empowered to pronounce an Award, and should his Award not be accepted by the Persian Government the matter is to be referred for final decision to His Majesty's Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.

I have the honour to request your Excellency to inform me, at your earliest convenience, whether the Persian Government agree to this proposal in order that I may inform His Majesty's Government.

Inclosure 3 in No. 252.

Mushir-ed-Dowleh to Mr. Erskine.

(Translation.)

November 9, 1902.

I HAVE received the Legation letter of the 1st November, and am thereby informed that His Majesty's Government propose to appoint an Arbitrator who will proceed in company with an officer and an Engineer, and the Arbitrator will have full power to make an arrangement, and if the Persian Government does not accept this Award the question shall be referred to the final decision of the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the British Government, and I have now to inform you in reply that the Persian Government accept the arbitration of this person or of the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the British Government as was clearly set forth in the letter of the day before yesterday, provided it be in accordance with the Goldsmidt Award.

No. 253.

Mr. Erskine to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received December 1.)

(No. 157.)

My Lord,

Tehran, November 11, 1902.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith the usual monthly summary of events in Persia.

I have, &c.

(Signed) WILLIAM A. F. ERSKINE.

Inclosure in No. 253.

*Monthly Summary of Events in Persia not reported in separate Despatches.**Bushire.*

THE report as to the arrival of Sheikh Mohammed-bin-Khalifat at Berkha Sofla has proved to be untrue.

An attack was made early in September by a band of Arabs on the steam-ship "Shushan" at Shelilieh, in which a boy was killed, a sailor wounded, and some goods carried off.

A Russian ship, the "Trouver," called at Lingah in the hope of getting passengers and cargo for Jeddah and other ports. She reached Bushire on the 18th September, and landed a large cargo of oil, sugar, and glassware.

The Kawam-ul-Mulk arrived at Bushire from Shiraz on the 27th September.

Mohammerah.

His Majesty's ship "Lapwing" arrived on the 7th September to bury a sailor who had been killed in an encounter with pirates.

The Sirdar Arfa has arrested Arrar, a noted pirate.

M. Dambrain arrived from Bushire and took over the administration of the Imperial Customs from the 23rd September.

The local authorities have arranged for ten soldiers to accompany the "Shushan" on each voyage, and Bakhtiari levies are being sent to put an end to the present robberies.

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Ispahan.

Some Russians have passed through the Bakhtiari country on their way south, surveying as they went.

M. Baranovsky, who has been detached from the Russian Legation at Tehran to take charge of the Consulate-General during the absence on leave of Prince Dabija, left Ispahan very secretly early in October. It is said that he also has gone to visit the Bakhtiari country, and thence to the Karun.

A serious disturbance was very nearly caused owing to his having had an aged Mollah beaten at the Consulate-General.

Robberies still occur almost daily on the road between Ispahan and Shiraz, and the post has again been robbed.

Shiraz

The Russian Consul is reported to have gone in Arab dress to the house of one of his servants, where a musician and a prostitute were provided. There was nearly a disturbance in consequence. The woman has been imprisoned and the Consul went away for a few days to let things quiet down.

The sons of the Kawam-ul-Mulk have sent a telegram to the Shah, sealed by the Mollahs, Princes, and merchants, to the effect that during His Majesty's absence Shiraz enjoyed perfect quiet, and that no one has cause of complaint against the Asaf-ed-Dowleh.

Herat.

It is reported that the Herat authorities have received letters from the Governor of Chikansur and from the Commissioner sent to settle the boundary question direct to the Persian authorities, reporting that the latter will not discuss the question properly, and urging that a British Commissioner should be sent. The letters have been forwarded to the Ameer.

There is said to be great distress in the province, and numbers of Heratis are emigrating to Persia.

Seventeen horse-loads and seventy camel-loads of rifles and ammunition have arrived from Cabul for the troops at Herat.

Seistan.

The Russian Bank at Meshed is offering banking facilities in Seistan, and has offered to make payment of 1,000 tomans to British Indian subjects at Meshed on receipt of the same sum from its agent in Seistan.

Colonel Whyte has been informed by one of the principal Mirzas of the Russian Bank that it is intended to open a branch in Seistan with a native in charge at first, but that later on a Russian will be sent.

Meshed.

Rumours as to the intended construction of a Russian railway to Meshed are being revived at Askabad.

Lieutenant Haslam has recently been to the Russian frontier by the Doshak route, which the Russians are now said to regard as the best for this railway. He reports that it offers great difficulties for railway construction. He returned by another and little frequented route, by which a railway could be made with little difficulty.

Colonel Whyte is informed that M. Ponafidine is unlikely to return to Meshed, and will probably get a post in the Russian Foreign Office. In that case, M. Miller will probably be appointed Consul-General at Meshed, as the Emperor is said to be much impressed with his work.

News from Transcaspia and Russian Turkestan continues to be of a reassuring nature and there appears to be no military activity there.

There is considerable dissatisfaction at the slow progress being made on the southern

section of the Tashkend-Orenburg Railway. Prince Khilkoff, the Minister of Ways and Communications, is expected shortly in Tashkend, and his visit is thought to be in this connection.

The Saham-ed-Dowleh, Governor of Bujnurd, is reported to have sold three places in Persian territory to the Russians. A Secret Agent has been sent from Meshed to make inquiries.

Captain Fisher, D.S.O., F.M.S., who has been appointed Surgeon to the Consulate-General, arrived on the 19th October.

Captain Smyth left Meshed for India via Seistan on the 22nd October.

The Manager of the Russian Bank has announced, at a large meeting of merchants, that Russian glass and cloth manufactories will shortly be established near Meshed, and that a Russian school for teaching foreign languages will shortly be opened there.

(Signed) WILLIAM A. F. ERSKINE.

Tehran, November 11, 1902.

No. 254.

Sir A. Hardinge to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received December 1.)

(No. 159.)

My Lord,

Tehran, November 11, 1902.

I HAVE the honour to report that M. Vlassoff, the new Russian Minister here, whose antecedents at Meshed and in Abyssinia are doubtless known to your Lordship, arrived here this morning shortly before myself, having crossed the Caspian by the same steamer.

I made his acquaintance on board, and he informed me that he had been transferred at a moment's notice from his late post as the Czar's Minister in Montenegro by His Imperial Majesty's special order, and without being consulted as to whether or not he would wish to be appointed to Tehran, or being allowed to remain any time to attend to his private business in Russia. He is a man of about 60, and appears to be not in the best of health; I gather, too, that he has been greatly broken by the death in Abyssinia of his wife, an English lady, and the widow of his former chief, M. du Nord, some time Russian Consul-General at Resht.

The appointment of M. Vlassoff is regarded here as indicating an intention on the part of Russia of pursuing a more active policy in Persia, in fact of throwing aside the mask since the conclusion of the second loan, as it was put to me at Resht, and now bullying instead of conciliating the Persian Government. He was received with very great honours at Resht, but it was noticed that he abstained from paying the Persian Governor the usual compliment of putting on uniform for his "istikbal." Mr. Churchill also told me that the Russian Consul at Resht did not go to meet the Shah at Enzelli, but merely sent his Secretary, whose manner in addressing the Grand Vizier was patronising to the verge of discourtesy.

I have, &c.

(Signed) ARTHUR H. HARDINGE.

No. 255.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received December 1.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Lord George Hamilton, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of a telegram to the Viceroy, dated the 26th November, relative to a reported attack by the Subaihi on the Hakem tribe.

India Office, November 28, 1902.

Inclosure in No. 255.

Lord G. Hamilton to Government of India.

(Telegraphic.) P.

India Office, November 26, 1902.

ON the 18th November the Foreign Office received a complaint from the Turkish Chargé d'Affaires to the effect that on the 13th November the Subaihi had made an attack on the Hakem tribe, belonging to the Moha district, and that some men were killed and goods pillaged in the affray. It was also stated that the Subaihi had burnt the village of Debal, in the same district, and that the son of Avis Sahib, one of the Hakem Sheikhs, had been killed by them. The Turkish Chargé d'Affaires added that steps to prevent reprisals had already been taken by the Ottoman authorities, and he requested that instructions to check this new aggression might be sent to the authorities at Aden. A report as to the facts should be furnished by the Resident.

No. 256.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received December 1.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Lord George Hamilton, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of a telegram to the Resident, Aden, dated the 27th November, relative to the strength of the escort with the Aden Delimitation Commission.

India Office, November 28, 1902.

Inclosure in No. 256.

Lord G. Hamilton to Resident, Aden.

(Telegraphic.) P.

India Office, November 27, 1902.

WITH reference to your telegram of 25th November, please inform me what is the strength of Colonel Wahab's present escort. It is presumed that its strength is not materially affected by the relief escort that is being sent up.

No. 257.

Hamid Bey to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received December 1.)

LE Chargé d'Affaires de Turquie présente ses compliments au Marquis de Lansdowne, et, d'ordre de son Gouvernement, il se fait un honneur de communiquer à sa Seigneurie les faits suivants :—

La Sublime Porte vient d'être informée par le Mufti du septième corps d'armée, Yemen, qu'un détachement composé de soldats Anglais et d'habitants de Daali a cherché de se rendre à Djebel-i-Hidjaf en passant par le village d'afir, compris dans la zone en contestation. Sur le refus des villageois de recevoir ce détachement, celui-ci s'est retiré en tirant des coups de fusil.

D'après un autre télégramme d'Abdullah Pacha, les Commissaires Anglais se trouvent actuellement à Likmetoulchouub. Comme leur séjour dans cet endroit pourrait donner lieu à d'interprétations erronées parmi la population, les Délégués Ottomans leur ont proposé de changer leur résidence, mais les Commissaires Anglais n'ont pas adhéré à leur proposition.

Hamid Bey a, par conséquent, pour instruction, de prier Lord Lansdowne de vouloir bien envoyer aux Commissaires précités d'ordre formel leur enjoignant de respecter la neutralité des localités en contestation, conformément à l'entente intervenue entre les deux pays.

*Ambassade Impériale de Turquie, Londres,
le 30 Novembre, 1902.*

No. 258.

Hamid Bey to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received December 1.)

LE Chargé d'Affaires de Turquie présente ses compliments au Marquis de Lansdowne et a l'honneur de l'informer qu'il vient de recevoir de son Gouvernement des instructions pour porter à la haute connaissance de sa Seigneurie les faits suivants :—

La Sublime Porte vient d'apprendre que les autorités de Hodeida ont déjà expédié à Hor-Elwahle deux canonnières ainsi qu'une compagnie de soldats chargés de poursuivre et de punir les coupables.

Hamid Bey a pour devoir d'ajouter que cette attitude énergique des autorités Impériales a été l'objet de la satisfaction du Commandant du "Speedy," qui a prié le Consul Britannique à Hodeida d'en remercier le Gouverneur de cette ville.

Tout en faisant part à sa Seigneurie des mesures très sérieuses adoptées par les autorités de Hodeida, il doit déclarer aussi que le dit Commandant du "Speedy," désirant se rendre à Hor-Elwahle et la présence de son vaisseau en vue de cette localité au moment même où les autorités Ottomanes font d'actifs efforts pour punir les agresseurs pouvant exciter les populations et offrir des inconvénients, le Gouvernement Impérial demande à sa Seigneurie que des ordres immédiats soient donnés afin que le Commandant du "Speedy" n'insiste pas pour se rendre dans la localité précitée.

*Ambassade Impériale de Turquie, Londres,
le 1^{er} Décembre, 1902.*

No. 259.

Question asked in the House of Commons, December 1, 1902.

Mr. Gibson Bowles.—To ask the Under-Secretary for Foreign Affairs whether His Majesty's Government were aware that a Commission of engineers had been sent out from Paris to survey Southern Persia for railways and other public works; whether that Commission had been established and sent out in connection with the negotiations between Russia and Persia for the construction of railways in Southern Persia; and what steps had been taken by His Majesty's Government to secure the interests of British trade in Persia and the position of this country in the Persian Gulf?

Answer.

His Majesty's Government have seen the report which has appeared in the press to the effect stated in the first portion of the question. A communication from the Persian Minister at Paris has, however, appeared in the "Matin" of the 26th November, stating that he is authorized to deny the report.

Mr. Gibson Bowles.—The noble Lord has not answered the last part of my question. Viscount Cranborne.—The security of the interests of this country in the Persian Gulf has always been a matter of the utmost concern to His Majesty's Government.

No. 260.

Question asked in the House of Commons, December 1, 1902.

Mr. Gibson Bowles.—To ask the Under-Secretary for Foreign Affairs whether the Russian Government had appointed a Russian Consul at Ahwaz, on the Karun River, in Persia; whether the Belgian Customs officials employed by the Persian Government had made any, and, if so, what alterations in the system of collecting

duties on or near that river; and whether His Majesty's Government would lay on the table the papers showing the terms set forth by the Persian Government when opening the navigation of the Karun River?

Answer.

His Majesty's Government understand that a Russian Consular Agent has been appointed for Arabistan. The customs duties on the Karun with which we are principally concerned have hitherto been collected at the ports of destination, but the Persian Government now wish to collect all such duties at Mohammerah. His Majesty's Legation at Tehran are in communication with them on the subject. It would not be desirable to lay papers at present.

No. 261.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir N. O'Connor.

(No. 169.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Foreign Office, December 1, 1902.

I AM repeating to you a telegram which is being addressed to the Viceroy of India on the subject of the proposed dispatch of troops to Dthali to strengthen the escort of the British Commission.

I request that you will explain the matter to the Turkish Government, and report to me how they receive your communication.

No. 262.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received December 2.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Lord George Hamilton, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of inclosures in a letter from the Foreign Secretary to the Government of India, dated the 30th October, relative to Yemen affairs.

Copy has been sent to the Intelligence Division, War Office.

India Office, December 1, 1902.

Inclosure 1 in No. 262.

Government of Bombay to Government of India.

(Confidential.)

Sir,

Bombay Castle, October 20, 1902.

I AM directed to forward herewith, for the information of the Government of India, a copy of a Confidential Memorandum dated the 11th October, 1902, from the Political Resident, Aden, and of its accompaniment, regarding the determined opposition which the Turks met with on attempting to collect revenue from the Amara tribe.

I have, &c.

(Signed) S. W. EDGERLEY,
Acting Chief Secretary to Government.

Inclosure 2 in No. 262.

Major Tod to Brigadier-General Maitland.

NEWS from Yemen. No. 2.

It is reported that the Kaimakam of Kataba, with Sheikh Ali Nashir-al-Maraha, the nephew of the latter, and ten Askari, of the Ahl Yuba, went to collect revenue

from the Amara. At a village called Rabadth, between Jabal Sanrak and Jabal Hesha, the Amara refused to pay any revenue. One of the Ahl Yubi struck one of the Amara, who drew his jimbea and killed him. Ali Nashir's nephew thereupon killed the Amara man and another of them. A free fight ensued, in which several were wounded on both sides. The Kaimakam returned to Dthoran, in Jabal Hesha, without obtaining any revenue.

(Signed) J. K. TOD.

Camp Dthala, October 7, 1902.

Inclosure 3 in No. 262.

Brigadier-General Maitland to Government of Bombay.

Aden Residency, October 11, 1902.

COPY of Yemen news report, dated Camp Dthala, the 7th October, 1902, from Major J. K. Tod, forwarded, with compliments, to the Secretary to Government, Political Department, Bombay.

The above confirms the impression that the Turks are having trouble with their tribes. The Amara, who are located north and north-east of Mavia, beyond the Homars, have been under Turkish jurisdiction for a considerable time.

(Signed) P. J. MAITLAND, *Brigadier-General,*
Political Resident, Aden.

No. 263.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received December 2.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Lord George Hamilton, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of a letter from the Resident, Aden, dated the 14th November, and inclosure, relative to the Aden delimitation.

India Office, December 1, 1902.

Inclosure 1 in No. 263.

Political Resident, Aden, to India Office.

(Confidential.)

Aden Residency, November 14, 1902.

COPY of Colonel Wahab's Secret despatch, dated Camp Dthala, the 12th November, 1902, to the Political Resident at Aden, forwarded, with compliments, to the Secretary, Political and Secret Department, India Office, London.

(For Political Resident, Aden),

(Signed) J. S. ASHBY, *Lieutenant-Colonel.*

NOTE.—A copy of this despatch has been forwarded to the Bombay Government, and also to the Government of India, Foreign Department.

Inclosure 2 in No. 263.

Colonel Wahab to Political Resident, Aden.

(Secret.)

Sir,

Camp Dthala, Aden, November 12, 1902.

IN view of the probable move of the Boundary Commission to commence delimitation to the north-east, I have the honour to propose the following arrangements for the occupation of Dthala.

2. Although the Turkish Commissioners have received orders to evacuate the posts complained of, all previous experience warns us that, unless the pressure under which these orders were obtained is continued, every possible means will be taken advantage of to minimize their effect. It is already evident that they are trying to maintain their occupation of the country under dispute by means of Arab levies, and it may be necessary to take summary measures for their withdrawal as well as that of the regular troops. I consider, therefore, that it will be necessary to occupy Dthala, or a suitable position in the neighbourhood with a force approximately equivalent to the Turkish force at Jalela, which latter will probably, when reinforced by the garrisons to be withdrawn from the other posts, amount to not less than 400 men with 4 or 5 guns. I would recommend that part of the force should consist of British troops.

I would suggest that the movable column, as already detailed, should be mobilized, and a portion sent to Dthala, while the remainder be kept at Musemir (Musemir is about 20 miles south-west of Dthala, and some 50 miles north of Aden), or some point in the Tiban Valley, where, owing to the ample water supply, the bulk of the transport animals should remain.

3. The strength of the escort with the Commission must depend to some extent on that accompanying the Turkish Commissioners, and I would suggest that His Majesty's Government should request the Porte to direct its Commissioners to reduce this to the lowest number essential for their safety.

4. As soon as the Turkish posts are withdrawn I propose to move part of the Commission to Lakmat ash Sh'ub, a point at the north of the Amiri territory, and close to which the boundary between the Mares district and the Sha'ibi territory is believed to commence. I doubt, however, if it will be possible for some time to make any progress with demarcation, owing to the refusal of the Turkish Commissioners to recognize the Yafa (under whom we include the Sha'ibi) among the nine tribes. A forward move on our part will be a clear proof to the Arab tribes that the Turks have been compelled to yield some of their pretensions, and it will give us an opportunity of getting into touch with the Yafa people, and, it is to be hoped, of making some sort of reconnaissance of the country to the north-east, and ascertaining the actual situation there, and the real feeling of the tribes. If, therefore, the movable column cannot be made use of without some considerable delay, I will leave a small detachment of my present escort here, and will ask that two British officers may be sent with the double company of the 2nd Bombay Grenadiers under orders for Dthala, one of them to be left in command of the post, and that an additional medical and commissariat subordinate may be detailed for duty at Dthala.

5. In further support of my suggestion for the early advance of the movable column I should add that, in spite of my constant endeavours to establish friendly relations with our Turkish colleagues, their attitude is one of suspicion, and even hostility. At night their patrols are pushed out from Jalela to within a short distance of our camp, and by day their Arab levies watch every movement of ours. When the Commission advances our communications will be entirely at the mercy of the Turkish garrison at Jalela; and, in view of the unfriendly attitude of the Turkish authorities, I think it is essential that the British force at Dthala should be sufficient to prevent any chance of the Turks taking advantage of the position.

I have, &c.

(Signed) R. A. WAHAB, Colonel,
Commissioner, Aden Boundary Commission.

No. 264.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received December 2.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Lord George Hamilton, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of a telegram from the Resident, Aden, dated the 28th November, relative to the strength of the escort with the Aden Delimitation Commission.

India Office, December 1, 1902.

Inclosure in No. 264.

Brigadier-General Maitland to Lord G. Hamilton.

(Telegraphic.) P.

Aden, November 28, 1902.

THE total strength of Colonel Wahab's escort, as to which you inquired in your telegram of the 27th November, is about 200. It consists of one double company native infantry, with a few sappers and miners, and Aden troop. There has been no material alteration, but in my absence the infantry were somewhat reduced. The double company now proceeding in relief is of about the original strength.

No. 265.

Admiralty to Foreign Office.—(Received December 2.)

Sir,

Admiralty, December 1, 1902.

WITH reference to previous correspondence, I am commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to transmit, for the information of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, a copy of a telegram, dated the 30th November, from the Commander-in-chief on the Mediterranean Station, relative to the situation at Hodeidah.

I am, &c.

(Signed) EVAN MACGREGOR.

Inclosure in No. 265.

Admiral Sir C. Domville to Admiralty.

(Telegraphic.)

Malta, November 30, 1902.

WITH reference to your telegram, following report received from "Speedy":—
"Urgent representations made to Wali Sana. Two transports ordered to Med, embarking [?] 500 troops for Wahla. Armed dhow repaired and dispatched [?]. 'Speedy' waits interpreter from Aden; steamer delayed by bad weather. Proceed to-morrow, daylight, to co-operate. Ringleaders will be brought to Hodeidah for trial."

No. 266.

Sir A. Hardinge to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received December 2.)

(No. 75.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Tehran, December 1, 1902.

I WAS informed last night by the Grand Vizier, that your Lordship had told the Persian Minister in London, that the proposed arbitration on the Perso-Afghan boundary question had now been rendered unnecessary by the rise in the Helmund River. His Highness proposed, therefore, that the functions of Major McMahon should be confined to the delimitation near Mirjawa of the boundary between India and Seistan.

No. 267.

Sir A. Hardinge to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received December 2.)

(Commercial.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Tehran, December 1, 1902.

THE Grand Vizier, with whom I had a conversation to-day respecting the new Commercial Tariff, practically admitted the correctness of the belief which prevails here that it is already signed and will come into operation in March or April of next year. He said, however, that he had not yet received the Shah's authorization to

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communicate to us its text. At the same time he showed me a letter which he had written last week to your Lordship, in which he explained his inability to accept your proposal that His Majesty's Government should send an expert here to discuss the question.

M. Naus saw M. de Witte at St. Petersburg a few weeks ago, and I believe the Convention was signed by him there.

It may be desirable to lose no time in reserving our rights to Turkish or Egyptian treatment, as otherwise the exchange of ratifications may take place soon. But I think we must insist on the acceptance of this claim at any cost, should we formulate it, and we should, if possible, get Turkey herself to follow suit and perhaps other Powers, say Austria or Germany. Before doing so, I presume that we shall complete our legal case and take steps at Constantinople and Cairo to prepare the ground.

I can ask the Grand Vizier to delay ratifications pending receipt of an early communication from your Lordship, should you approve this course.

No. 268.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir N. O'Connor.

(No. 171.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Foreign Office, December 2, 1902.

I HAVE received your Lordship's telegram No. 133 of the 29th November relative to a piratical attack on a British dhow at Khorelvahle.

Turkish Chargé d'Affaires has addressed a note to me which states that the Hodeidah authorities have sent two gun-boats and a company of troops to Khorelvahle to punish the culprits, but that Commander of His Majesty's ship "Speedy" still proposes to go to that place. In the opinion of the Turkish Government his presence would have a bad effect on the population, and they ask that instructions may be sent to him not to go.

There appears to me to be no reason why His Majesty's ship should not be present, in order that the Commander may see that adequate punishment is inflicted on the pirates, or inform His Majesty's Government what further measures he considers it may be necessary to take.

A communication in the above sense has been made to Hamid Bey.

No. 269.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir A. Hardinge.

(No. 63.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Foreign Office, December 2, 1902.

I HAVE received your telegram No. 74 of the 28th November.

Please send text of material part of your letter to Sheikh of Mohammerah.

I see no objection to informing him that Mohammerah would be protected by us against naval attack of a foreign Power whatever pretext might be alleged for it, and we might also equally promise him that he will have our good offices and support so long as he remains faithful to the Shah and acts in accordance with our advice. Your proposed language to the Grand Vizier appears to be suitable to the occasion.

No. 270.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir A. Hardinge.

(No. 12. Commercial.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Foreign Office, December 2, 1902.

WITH reference to your Commercial telegram of the 1st instant, I have submitted to the Law Officers of the Crown the question of our right to claim Egyptian treatment for British goods imported into Persia, and have requested them to report as soon as possible.

I am of opinion that in the meanwhile nothing should be said as to the postponement of the notification of the new Tariff agreed upon between Russia and Persia.

No. 271.

Foreign Office to Admiralty.

Sir,

Foreign Office, December 2, 1902.

WITH reference to your letter of yesterday, I am directed by the Marquess of Lansdowne to transmit to you a copy of a note from the Turkish Chargé d'Affaires in regard to the recent attack by pirates on a British man-of-war's dhow at Khorelvahle.*

Hamid Bey requests that in view of the steps which are being taken by the Turkish authorities to punish the persons concerned in the attack, immediate instructions may be sent to the Officer in command of His Majesty's ship "Speedy" not to go to Khorelvahle.

Lord Lansdowne sees no reason why His Majesty's ship "Speedy" should not be present in order that the Commander may see that adequate punishment is inflicted on the pirates, and, failing such punishment, report what further measures he considers necessary, and he has so informed the Turkish Chargé d'Affaires and His Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople.

I am, &c.

(Signed) T. H. SANDERSON.

No. 272.

Foreign Office to India Office.

Sir,

Foreign Office, December 2, 1902.

I HAVE laid before the Marquess of Lansdowne your letter of the 27th ultimo, relative to the proposal made by the British Commissioner on the Aden frontier, and supported by the Resident at Aden and the Government of India, that reinforcements should be sent to Dthali.

I am directed by Lord Lansdowne to inform you that he concurs in the proposed telegram to the Viceroy, and will repeat it to His Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople, with instructions to explain the matter to the Turkish Government, and report how his communication is received.

I am, &c.

(Signed) T. H. SANDERSON.

No. 273.

Hamid Bey to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received December 3.)

LE Chargé d'Affaires de Turquie présente ses compliments au Marquis de Lansdowne, et a l'honneur, conformément aux instructions qu'il a reçues de son Gouvernement, de porter les faits suivants à la haute connaissance de sa Seigneurie :—

Des gens de la tribu de Sabihi, faisant partie des neuf Cantons, ne cessent de commettre des empiètements sur le territoire de la tribu Hakem, dépendant du district de Mokha, et de s'y livrer à des acharnements de meurtres et de pillages.

Ainsi dans la nuit du 30 Octobre dernier (v.s.) ils se sont rendus au village de Vebab (Mokha), l'ont incendié, et ont tué le fils d'Avaz Sabit, un des Cheikhs de Hakem.

Les autorités Impériales ont pris de suite les dispositions nécessaires pour empêcher tout acte de vengeance de la part de la tribu de Hakem; mais comme les empiètements des Cheikhs des neuf Cantons, s'ils continuent, peuvent créer des incidents fâcheux, Hamid Bey est chargé de prier sa Seigneurie de vouloir bien envoyer à qui de droit des ordres pour que les dits empiètements cessent.

*Ambassade Impériale de Turquie, Londres,
le 2 Décembre, 1902.*

No. 274.

[Nil.]

No. 275.

Hamid Bey to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received December 3.)

LE Chargé d'Affaires de Turquie a l'honneur d'informer le Marquis de Lansdowne que l'Ambassadeur Britannique à Constantinople s'est plaint auprès du Ministre des Affaires Étrangères de Turquie, de ce que des Arabes se trouvant à Souhaf, un des points dernièrement évacués par les troupes Ottomanes, en vertu de l'entente intervenue, commettent des actes d'agression et demande que des assurances catégoriques fussent données dans le délai de vingt-quatre heures à l'effet d'empêcher ces actes.

Hamid Bey a pour devoir d'ajouter que l'Ambassadeur de Grande-Bretagne a déclaré que faute de ce faire, le Gouvernement Britannique enverrait des Indes à Aden des troupes munies de canons avec mission de déloger du point en question les Arabes qui s'y seraient cantonnés.

Dans ces circonstances le Grand Vizir a déjà télégraphié au Gouverneur du vilayet pour demander des renseignements à ce sujet, et a donné en même temps l'ordre d'empêcher immédiatement que de pareils faits se produisent.

La Sublime Porte ne peut s'empêcher d'établir une connexité entre les faits relatés et les informations fournies par le Gouverneur du vilayet sur une tentative du Cheikh de Dhali de s'emparer de certains points contestés. Or, l'entente intervenue entre les deux Gouvernements laisse à l'accord ultérieur des Parties la délimitation des points contestés, qui ne doivent être actuellement occupés d'aucun côté; c'est sur la base de cette entente que le Gouvernement Impérial a consenti à les faire évacuer par les troupes Ottomanes.

Hamid Bey est conséquemment chargé par son Gouvernement d'insister auprès de sa Seigneurie pour que le Gouvernement Britannique invite de son côté des Cheikhs de Dhali et de Havachib à ne pas intervenir, et à n'envoyer personne dans ces parties contestées, et à s'abstenir de toute tentative contraire à l'esprit de la décision intervenue entre les deux États.

La Sublime Porte ne peut admettre la menace de l'envoi d'un corps d'armée expéditionnaire Anglais sur les lieux. Comme le Gouvernement Impérial a loyalement évacué les points contestés et s'abstient de toute immixtion dans ces parages, il estime que le Gouvernement Britannique doit s'abstenir aussi de toute immixtion et intervention particulière.

La Sublime Porte demande donc que les Commissaires des deux Parties agissent toujours d'accord.

En conclusion, le Chargé d'Affaires de Turquie doit prier sa Seigneurie de vouloir bien inviter le Commissaire Anglais à agir de concert avec son collègue Ottoman, afin d'éviter la possibilité de pareils incidents.

*Ambassade Impériale de Turquie, Londres,
le 3 Décembre, 1902.*

No. 276.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received December 3.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Lord George Hamilton, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of a telegram from the Resident, Aden, dated the 30th ultimo, relative to the Aden delimitation.

India Office, December 3, 1902.

Inclosure in No. 276.

Brigadier-General Maitland to Lord G. Hamilton.

(Telegraphic.) P.

Aden, November 30, 1902,

IN continuation of my telegram of the 24th instant, I have ascertained from Colonel Wahab that the Turkish troops have been withdrawn from Mafare and elsewhere to Jalela, where the garrison now consists of 400, with four or five guns. Wahab has an escort of 200 men, without any guns. He reports also that shots were fired at his camp on the evening of the 24th instant, and that the cordon of levies, though withdrawn in the daytime, is replaced at night. The dispossessed Sheikh of Lakhmat-as-Saleh is, he adds, unable to return to his village. Since the situation has not improved materially since the withdrawal of Turkish posts, Wahab has postponed the movement of the Commission to Lakhmat-ash-Shuazi [*sic* Shab?]. Before long, however, I hope to receive the map referred to in my telegram dated the 11th instant, and with it a Memorandum stating the case on behalf of the Amir of Dthali. On these I hope that His Majesty's Government will be able to decide what territory rightfully belongs to the Amir of Dthali.

(Repeated to Government of Bombay and to Constantinople).

No. 277.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received December 3.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Lord George Hamilton, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of a telegram to the Viceroy, dated the 2nd instant, relative to the Aden delimitation.

India Office, December 3, 1902.

Inclosure in No. 277.

Lord G. Hamilton to Government of India.

(Telegraphic.) P.

India Office, December 2, 1902.

YOUR telegram of the 24th ultimo. I agree that the escort at Dthali may be strengthened, as proposed by the Resident in his telegram of the 16th ultimo. If necessary, a battalion may be sent from India to Aden for reinforcement. In order to prevent misunderstanding, Sir N. O'Connor will explain to the Porte that the object of making an addition to the strength of the escort attached to the British Commission is to provide the necessary support to the escort that will actually accompany the Commission while demarcation is in progress, and is in no way aggressive. It is desirable that the communication to the Porte shall precede any movement of troops, and they should not leave Aden till I telegraph again, although they should be got ready to start.

No. 278.

Sir N. O'Connor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received December 3.)

(No. 134.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Constantinople, December 3, 1902.

IN accordance with the instructions contained in your Lordship's telegram No. 169 of the 1st instant, I yesterday informed the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the intention to reinforce, if necessary, our Commissioners' escort, and to send a battalion to Aden for that purpose. I explained that this measure was the natural consequence of the inferiority of our escort as compared with the Turkish troops, and was in no way an aggressive one.

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The idea did not seem to please his Excellency, but he refrained from any observations.

(Confidential.)

Resident's telegram of the 30th ultimo. It is difficult to base representations on the petty wrangles and incidents now going on and delaying work. I do not understand why our Commissioners do not invite their Turkish colleagues to proceed conjointly to the work of delimitation. If Wahab insists on this and the Turks refuse, I shall then have a definite complaint to make to the Porte.

Has Fitzmaurice arrived, and what is his position?

No. 279.

Sir N. O'Connor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received December 3.)

(No. 135.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Constantinople, December 3, 1902.

YOUR telegram No. 171 of the 2nd December.

As it appears that the Turks are acting with more energy than is usual with them, and as the pirates have been already severely punished by the dhow of the "Speedy," I hope that our action will be strictly confined to seeing that the Ottoman officials perform their duty.

(Confidential.)

I venture to submit that we should risk alienating such sympathy as we possess among the Arabs of the interior if we were to extend our naval operations further than is absolutely necessary. An Arabian question may come upon us before long and it would be well to have as much to our credit in that country as possible.

No. 280.

Sir A. Hardinge to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received December 3.)

(No. 76.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Tehran, December 3, 1902.

KARUN Customs.

With reference to your Lordship's telegram No. 57 of the 8th November, I have been informed by the Persian Government that they are prepared to maintain a Custom-house at Ahwaz, for goods destined for that place and places further up the river. They, however, only agree to this on the understanding that such goods are placed in hatches sealed by the Customs officials at Mohammerah, the captains only being allowed to break the seals in case of *vis major* according to Customs Laws which prevail in all countries. It is considered by Mr. Richards, who knows the Karun district, that this arrangement ought to meet the reasonable requirements of Messrs. Lynch.

It seems clear that Ahwaz would be the most convenient place for merchants, although the Persian Government are willing to have the Custom-house either there or at Shuster, but not at both places.

No. 281.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir N. O'Connor.

(No. 162.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Foreign Office, December 3, 1902.

THE telegram directing His Majesty's ship "Speedy" to wait at Suakin did not apparently reach her before she left for Hodeida, and she arrived at that place yesterday. In view, however, of the difficulties still being made by the Turkish Commissioners on the Aden Delimitation Commission, it will probably be useful for her to remain at Hodeida for a short time.

No. 282.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir A. Hardinge.

(No. 64.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Foreign Office, December 3, 1902.

I HAVE received your telegram No. 75 of the 1st instant, relative to the Persian Afghan frontier.

In a telegram dated the 23rd November, the Viceroy of India expresses opinion that if the Ameer of Afghanistan accepts the red line marked in Goldsmid's Map and issues instructions to the Afghans to retire behind the old bed of the river, it would perhaps be difficult, now that the supply of water is ample for both parties, to maintain the case for compulsory arbitration.

I have, however, in my communications with the Persian Minister, gone no further than to say that I was glad to hear of the rise in the waters of the Helmund, which would lessen the acuteness of the dispute.

No. 283.

Foreign Office to India Office.

Sir,

Foreign Office, December 3, 1902.

WITH reference to previous correspondence in regard to the Aden boundary, I am directed by the Marquess of Lansdowne to transmit to you a copy of a note from the Turkish Chargé d'Affaires,* complaining that a British detachment has endeavoured to go to Djebel-i-Hidjaf by way of the village of Afir, which is stated to be in the disputed territory, and that the British Commissioners have established themselves at Likmetulshuub.

I am to request that Lord G. Hamilton will favour Lord Lansdowne with his observations on this representation.

I am, &c.

(Signed) T. H. SANDERSON.

No. 284.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received December 4.)

Sir,

India Office, December 4, 1902.

WITH reference to Sir T. Sanderson's letter of the 18th November, 1902, on the subject of a representation made by the Turkish Chargé d'Affaires in respect of the alleged distribution of rifles to the tribesmen and the preparations for an expedition to the Yaffai country on the part of the British Boundary Commissioners, I am directed by Lord George Hamilton to forward a copy of a telegram from the Resident at Aden, dated the 1st December, reporting that Colonel Wahab denies that there is any foundation for these allegations. The Resident adds that no Sheikhs have been summoned to Aden.

I am, &c.

(Signed) A. GODLEY.

Inclosure in No. 284.

Resident, Aden, to Lord G. Hamilton.

(Telegraphic.) P.

Aden, December 1, 1902.

IN continuation of my telegram of the 25th November relative to the complaints made by the Turkish Chargé d'Affaires, the reply of Colonel Wahab is to the effect

that the alleged collection of camels for an expedition into the Yaffai country and distribution of rifles are both absolutely without any foundation. As regards the Yaffai Chiefs, I have already explained. I may add, however, that, as a matter of fact, I have summoned to Aden none of the Sheikhs.

No. 285.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received December 4.)

Sir, *India Office, December 4, 1902.*
WITH reference to Sir F. Bertie's letter of the 24th November on the subject of the Aden delimitation, I am directed by the Secretary of State for India to forward, for submission to the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, copies of telegrams from the Viceroy, dated the 29th November and 1st December, dealing respectively with the question of Mr. Fitzmaurice's position on the Commission, and the occupation by the Amir of Dthali of the territory from which the Turks have withdrawn.

As regards the latter subject, Lord George Hamilton is not disposed to acquiesce in the views of the Government of India that the Amir of Dthali should be allowed to occupy the territory from which the Turks have withdrawn until a settlement of the questions at issue has been arrived at in the manner suggested in Sir N. O'Connor's telegram of the 18th November. But before coming to a final decision on this and the other points at issue, Lord George Hamilton thinks it would be well that Mr. Fitzmaurice should be instructed to submit, as soon as possible after his arrival on the spot, a report on the whole situation as it exists at present.

As regards the question of the relative positions of Mr. Fitzmaurice and Colonel Wahab on the Commission, Lord George Hamilton sees no reason to doubt that the two Commissioners will be able to work in friendly co-operation, and is inclined to think with the Viceroy that there is no sufficient reason for superseding Colonel Wahab. His Lordship would be glad to be informed what instructions Lord Lansdowne proposes to send to Mr. Fitzmaurice as to his position and duties on the Commission.

I am, &c.
(Signed) A. GODLEY.

Inclosure in No. 285.

Telegrams communicated by India Office, December 4, 1902.

(1.)

Government of India to Lord G. Hamilton.

(Telegraphic.) P. *November 29, 1902.*
YOUR telegram of the 26th November. As regards Mr. Fitzmaurice's position on the Aden Delimitation Commission, there seems no sufficient reason why he should supersede Colonel Wahab. Is it not possible for the two to work in friendly co-operation? Wahab should take every advantage of Fitzmaurice's knowledge and experience, and we will instruct him accordingly.

(2.)

Government of India to Lord G. Hamilton.

(Telegraphic.) P. *December 1, 1902.*
YOUR telegram of the 25th November. In reply to your request to be furnished with the views of the Government of India on the whole subject of Aden delimitation, Sir N. O'Connor's recommendations have my general concurrence, but as regards the re-establishment of the authority of the Amir of Dthali in positions which the Turks have occupied since demarcation began, I do not see why it is proposed to negative the Resident's suggestion. Our case is that these villages belong to the Amir, and that

the Turks seized them wrongfully. Now that the Turks have been induced by us to accept this view and to evacuate, since there does not appear to be any third party, what other alternative remains except that the Amir should re-enter?

No. 286.

Sir A. Hardinge to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received December 4.)

(No. 77.)
(Telegraphic.) P.

Tehran, December 4, 1902.

PROPOSED assurances to Sheikh of Mohammerah.
Your Lordship's telegram No. 63 of the 2nd instant. After urging him to maintain good relations with the Shah's Government, my draft letter to the Sheikh recapitulates the inquiries made by his Agent last May as to whether we would be prepared to protect him against an attempt by ships of a foreign Power, either at war with Persia or as her pretended friend, to depose him and to take away the ancient rights of the Arabs, which was the only danger he really feared, and my reply to the effect that there was little likelihood of either contingency arising, but that in my belief we should interfere if either of them should arise, provided always that his actions had been in accordance with the advice of His Majesty's Government, and that steps would be taken by our naval forces, which were stronger in the Persian Gulf than those of other Powers, to prevent him being cowed by force. To this I propose to add the following sentence:—

"I stated, however, that I should have to refer these questions to the Foreign Minister of the British Government, and he has now authorized me to say that we shall protect Mohammerah against naval attack by a foreign Power, whatever pretext for such attack may be alleged, and also so long as you remain faithful to the Shah and act in accordance with our advice, will continue to give you our good offices and support."

The above is the substance of your Lordship's own words.
The rest of the letter contains expressions of my personal esteem for the Sheikh, and of my belief that no designs are entertained against his rights by the Persian Government.

The Grand Vizier, to whom I spoke on the subject last Monday, made no remarks worth reporting in a telegram, but I think my words were not without good effect.

No. 287.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir N. O'Connor.

(No. 172.)
(Telegraphic.) P.

Foreign Office, December 4, 1902.

ADEN delimitation.
With reference to your telegram No. 134 of the 3rd December there is apparently some misapprehension, as in a note brought by the Turkish Chargé d'Affaires it is stated that you have complained against acts of aggression by Arabs at Souhaf, that you have demanded categorical assurances within twenty-four hours that such aggression will be prevented, and that you have said that unless these assurances are received, His Majesty's Government will send troops and guns to Aden from India in order to expel the Arabs. After adding that the Grand Vizier has telegraphed for information on this subject and has given orders that such incidents should be prevented, note proceeds to complain that attempts have been made by the Sheikh of Dthali to occupy places situated in the disputed territory, and requests that instructions may be given him to desist from such proceedings.

Finally, it states that the Porte is unable to admit the threat to dispatch an English expeditionary force to the spot, and requests that instructions may be sent to British Commissioner to act in concert with the Turkish Commissioner to prevent the possibility of such incidents recurring.

The Turkish Chargé d'Affaires will be told that the Porte has evidently misinterpreted your communication, that we wish to co-operate in the most friendly manner with the Turkish Government, but that it is apparently necessary that the

Turkish Commissioners should be instructed to adopt a more conciliatory attitude than at present, and that we consider it necessary that our force on the spot should not be inferior to the Turkish force in view of what has occurred.

No. 288.

Foreign Office to Major Cox.

(No. 4. Consular.)

Sir,

Foreign Office, December 4, 1902.

THE Marquess of Lansdowne has received your despatch of the 21st September, submitting for approval a copy of a Notification which you have issued with regard to certain Regulations made by you under "The Muscat Order in Council, 1867," in respect of the registration of transfers of real property from or to British subjects or British-protected persons.

I am directed by his Lordship to call your attention to the despatch addressed to you on the 16th February, 1901, inclosing, for your information and guidance, printed instructions respecting the issue of Regulations, &c., under Orders in Council, which had been drawn up in this Department for the guidance of His Majesty's Consular officers, with a view to insuring harmony and regularity in dealing with these matters.

You acknowledge the receipt of the instructions in a despatch dated the 16th March, 1901, but you have not followed them in drawing up your Notification.

I transmit to you herewith, by Lord Lansdowne's direction, an amended draft Notice,* framed in accordance with the instructions.

In the Notification issued by you the incorrect expression "British-protected subjects" has been used. This term would imply that there are two classes of British subjects, one of which is protected, and the other not, whereas the distinction which it was intended to emphasize was that existing between British subjects, on the one hand, and, on the other, "British-protected persons," the latter not being British subjects, but persons who, although not possessed of British nationality, are yet afforded British protection. You will observe that the error has been rectified in the amended draft Notice.

The draft is forwarded to you in order that, whilst preserving its form, you may make any alterations in its language which you may consider desirable, and afterwards submit it for Lord Lansdowne's approval, following the procedure prescribed in the instructions.

Under Article 2 of the Muscat Order in Council, the Notification already issued by you will remain in force until it is disallowed by the Secretary of State. Lord Lansdowne's disallowance will be signified to you when his Lordship's approval of the new Notice is communicated to you.

I am to instruct you to be careful in future, in issuing Regulations, &c., under the Muscat Order in Council, to be guided by the general instructions sent to you on the 16th February, 1901.

I am, &c.

(Signed) T. H. SANDERSON.

No. 289.

Foreign Office to Admiralty.

(Secret.)

Sir,

Foreign Office, December 4, 1902.

WITH reference to my letter of the 2nd instant I am directed by the Marquess of Lansdowne to transmit to you the decypher of a telegram from His Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople,† relative to the recent attack by pirates on a British man-of-war's dhow at Khor-el-Vahle, near Hodeidah.

I am to state that Lord Lansdowne concurs in the views expressed by Sir N. O'Connor as to the attitude to be observed by the British naval authorities on the coast of Arabia.

I am, &c.

(Signed) T. H. SANDERSON.

* Amended draft Notice.

† No. 279.

No. 290.

Consul Stevens to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received December 5.)

(No. 13.)

My Lord,

Batoum, November 24, 1902.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship translation of an article in the "Tchernomorsky Viestnik" of the 9th (22nd) instant, which has reference to the recent decision of the Russian Government to extend the Alexandropol-Erivan branch railway from the latter mentioned place as far as Julfa on the Russo-Persian frontier.

I have, &c.

(Signed) P. STEVENS.

Inclosure in No. 290.

Extract from the "Tchernomorsky Viestnik."

Translation.)

November 9 (22), 1902.

THE Russian Government has decided to make a fresh move in the direction of the Persian Gulf. It has been decided to extend the railway from Erivan to the Persian frontier and subsequently, of course, advantage will be taken of the concession granted to the Russo-Persian Bank for the construction of railroads in Persia. The laying of fresh railway lines will more closely bind the neighbouring Monarchies by opening up a wide way to Persia for Russian manufactured goods, and hereafter to the East via Persian ports situated in the Gulf. Russian railways, of which, one unites the industries of Russia with the Far East and the other will serve the Near East, will become keen competitors of the English Mercantile Marine.

Owing to the feeble development of our Mercantile Marine, the transport of Russian manufactured goods was hitherto completely dependent on foreigners, principally on the English, seeing that whether you wished it or not, foreign ships had to be resorted to for the conveyance of such goods. The owners of these vessels fixed the rate of freights as they deemed fit, and, of course, did not miss any opportunities of injuring Russian trade.

Radical changes will, however, take place when a railway is carried through the country, and the coincidence referred to above will be to a great extent removed in view of the possibility of transporting merchandise by our lines. There is no doubt that the cost of transport by rail will be greater than sea freights, the difference in the enhanced rate will, however, be more than amply compensated for by the advantages to be derived from the shorter distance that the goods will have to travel, from the time gained in view of their regular delivery and from the avoidance of payments for demurrage which at times are excessive. With the construction of railways, Russian industrial enterprise will receive important privileges in the market of the world, but in order to make the most of these privileges, our manufacturers must use their utmost endeavours to place their merchandise on the markets at the same price and of the same quality as that furnished by foreigners.

No. 291.

Admiralty to Foreign Office.—(Received December 5.)

Sir,

Admiralty, December 5, 1902.

WITH reference to your letter of the 4th instant, I am commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to transmit, for the information of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, copy of a telegram dated this day from the Admiralty to the Commander-in-chief on the Mediterranean station.

I am, &c.

(Signed) EVAN MACGREGOR.

Inclosure in No. 291.

Admiralty to Admiral Sir C. Domville.

(Telegraphic.)

Admiralty, December 5, 1902.

FOREIGN OFFICE represents that as dhow of "Speedy" has already severely punished pirates, and Turks are now acting with energy, naval action should be strictly confined to seeing that their officials do their duty, it being opposed to our political interest to unnecessarily extend naval operations and alienate sympathy of Arabs of interior.

Instruct naval officers concerned accordingly.

No. 292.

Sir N. O'Connor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received December 5.)

(No. 136.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Constantinople, December 5, 1902.

YOUR Lordship's telegram No. 172 of the 4th December.

The Turks should not be allowed for a moment to imagine that His Majesty's Government will patiently tolerate any continued exhibition of their bad faith in outwardly accepting our specific demands while otherwise neutralizing their effects.

I have made it my policy from the beginning to convince both the Porte and the Sultan that we desire earnestly to settle the Aden question by diplomatic means and in a friendly manner, but, at the same time, to give them a clear impression that, in the event of failure, recourse to other measures might ultimately be forced upon us.

I think we ought to persist in this line of policy, and that if we deviate from it it will almost inevitably result in our having to send a strong military force to the Aden neighbourhood.

I have reported my language to the Porte in connection with this question in my despatch No. 532, which is due in London to-morrow, and I venture to request that no answer be given to the Turkish Chargé d'Affaires until after its arrival.

No. 293.

Sir A. Hardinge to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received December 5.)

(No. 78.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Tehran, December 5, 1902.

ACCORDING to reports from His Majesty's Consul-General at Meshed, it has been decided by the Russian Government to open in Seistan a branch of their bank on an extensive scale.

I think, therefore, that it would be advisable for a branch to be opened there by the Imperial Bank of Persia, if they can, but I fear that some pecuniary assistance will be asked for by them.

No. 294.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir A. Hardinge.

(No. 65.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Foreign Office, December 5, 1902.

I HAVE received your telegram No. 77 of the 4th December, relative to the question of the assurances to be given to the Sheikh of Mohammerah by His Majesty's Government.

I concur in the terms of your proposed letter to the Sheikh.

No. 295.

Sir N. O'Connor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received December 8.)

(No. 194. Commercial.)

My Lord,

Constantinople, November 29, 1902.

WITH reference to previous correspondence respecting the new Perso-Turkish Commercial Agreement, I have the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship an extract from the "Moniteur Oriental" of the 26th instant, stating that the Central Customs Administration has been instructed to inform the Customs authorities of the Empire of the terms of this instrument.

As your Lordship is aware, the Convention is not to come into force until the 23rd February (8th March) of next year, unless the Persian Government declare themselves willing to apply it at an earlier date.

I have, &c.
(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

Inclosure in No. 295.

Extract from the "Moniteur Oriental" of November 26, 1902.

LE COMMERCE TURCO-PERSAN.—L'Administration Générale des Contributions Indirectes a reçu l'ordre de porter à la connaissance des autorités Douanières de l'Empire les dispositions de la nouvelle Convention Douanière Turco-Persane.

Aux termes de celle-ci, les marchandises importées de Perse en Turquie acquitteront un droit de douane de 8 pour cent *ad valorem*.

Les marchandises Ottomanes exportées de Turquie en Perse paieront un droit d'exportation de 10 pour cent et, en Perse, un droit d'importation de 5 pour cent *ad valorem*.

No. 296.

Sir N. O'Connor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received December 8.)

(No. 518.)

My Lord,

Constantinople, November 29, 1902.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 497 of the 13th instant, I have the honour to transmit a copy of a further despatch from His Majesty's Vice-Consul at Hodeidah, which has been forwarded to me by His Majesty's Consul at Jeddah, reporting on the proceedings of the Italian war-ships and the threat to bombard Hodeidah.

With reference to the second paragraph of Mr. Richardson's despatch, I would suggest that a copy of the Government Telegraph Code should be furnished to him.

I have, &c.
(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

Inclosure 1 in No. 296.

Vice-Consul Richardson to Consul Dorey.

(No. 102.)

Sir,

Hodeidah, October 22, 1902.

I BEG to forward for your information copy of a cablegram dispatched to His Majesty's Ambassador at the Sublime Porte, and to submit the following report:—

I regret that the cablegram was not transmitted in "cypher" or "code," as I am not in possession of books containing either.

On the evening of the 12th instant the Royal Italian cruiser "Piemonte" arrived from Venice and anchored off Hodeidah.

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At the same time the following Italian ships were in the vicinity: the "Caprera" at Massowah, the "Barberigo" at Lohyea, and the "Galileo Galilei" at Midi. The four above-mentioned ships were specially sent out from Italy to take measures for the suppression of piracies in the Red Sea, which, for the past four months, were of frequent occurrence; also to obtain redress from the Turkish Government for numerous acts of piracy committed by Arabs of the Yemen on sambooks flying the Italian flag; lastly, for the attacks on Nokra in April last and on the island of Dahlak in the beginning of September by pirates from the Yemen.

Representations at the Sublime Porte during the past few months failed to elicit conclusive results.

The 13th, 14th, and 15th October were occupied in the paying of several visits by the Commander of the "Piemonte" to the Hodeidah authorities on the subject of the Italian mission to the Red Sea, and the interchange of correspondence with the latter and of telegraphic communication with the Vali at Sana.

The "Piemonte" was followed by the cruiser "Caprera" from Massowah on the 16th instant.

Failing to obtain satisfaction, the Italian Commander submitted an ultimatum to the local Government on the afternoon of the 16th instant demanding the surrender on board of his war-ship, by 8 A.M. on the 18th October, Mahomed Gebat of Midi, a noted pirate Chief, and the two Sheikhs of Beni Marwan and Beni Hakami, together with their arms, property, and sambooks; or that an important official, delegated by the Government, be placed at his disposal by that hour to proceed to the various places where piracies are organized, and order the arrest of the above-mentioned individuals with their accomplices, also their property, arms, and sambooks, aided, if necessary, by the Italian forces. In case of refusal of the Government to accept either of the above demands, he (the Commander) threatened to bombard Hodeidah, Midi, and Khor-el-Uahla. Should the authorities, on the other hand, agree to place an official on board of the "Piemonte," the Commander expected that the arrest of the aforesaid Chiefs should be effected at Midi within five days of his arrival at that port, and within a further period of five days after arrival at Khor-el-Uahla, otherwise he would return to Hodeidah to execute his threat.

Official intimation of the intended bombardment of Hodeidah and the other places, with a copy of the ultimatum sent by the Commander of the Italian cruiser "Piemonte," was conveyed to this Vice-Consulate by means of a despatch from the Royal Italian Consul at 8 P.M. on the 16th, a copy of which is inclosed.

I cabled to the Officer Commanding His Majesty's ship "Harrier" at Perim requesting his presence here to protect British interests.

His Majesty's Ambassador at the Porte and his Excellency the Naval Commander-in-Chief at Malta were informed, telegraphically, of the events that had occurred at Hodeidah.

On the 17th, morning, I visited the Commander of the Italian cruiser "Piemonte," who generously offered to place his vessel at my disposal during the time of the bombardment, if such should take place.

I pointed out to the Commander, in an unofficial and friendly manner, that a bombardment of the town would mean considerable loss of British property, and also of others under our protection. I was informed, confidentially, by him that it was not intended to fire actually on the town, but that he would only bombard the Turkish fort and the Government buildings at either end of the town.

I interviewed the Acting Mutessarif and demanded that early measures should be taken to protect the property of all our subjects and of those enjoying our protection. I also represented that the number of troops at the disposal of the military authorities at Hodeidah was most inadequate for the purpose of safe-guarding the lives and property of foreigners.

He informed me that, while regretting the possible and threatened bombardment of the town by the Italians, the Ottoman Government would hold the latter responsible for all loss of life and damage to the property of foreigners. He (the Governor) represented that the demands of the Italian Commander were most unreasonable and utterly impracticable; further, that the negotiations between his Government and the Commander of the "Piemonte" had been unnecessarily interrupted by the presentation of an ultimatum by the latter. He added that the Government had promised to take energetic measures towards the suppression of piracy, and the punishment of the parties concerned in the recent pillages, and that suitable compensation was offered to the Italian Government for the losses suffered by its subjects.

No official information, according to the Government account, had hitherto been

received regarding the recent raid into the Island of Dahlak, nor were any communications made by the local Italian Consulate on the subject of piracies.

I requested his Excellency the Vali at Sana to instruct the Hodeidah authorities to take proper precautions against looting of the property of our subjects during the bombardment by Arabs of the town.

It was apprehended that in case of a bombardment, an inroad would be made into Hodeidah by robbers from the neighbouring tribe of Lereneek, for the purpose of sacking the town.

The reply given by the Vali was similar to that of the Acting Governor. His Excellency protested against the unjustifiable attitude of the Commander of the Italian cruiser, whose demands were contrary to international rights and Treaties, but assured me that the Government would do all in its power to protect the lives and property of British subjects.

His Majesty's ship "Harrier" arrived on the afternoon of the 17th instant. I proceeded on board immediately and represented the situation at Hodeidah to the officer commanding, and showed him the communication received from the Royal Italian Consul, containing a copy of the ultimatum.

I also informed him what interests of ours were at stake. The property of British subjects was roughly estimated at 200,000*l.*, and that of those under our protection at 150,000*l.* There was also about 50,000*l.* cash in silver.

It was also indicated by me that a bombardment of the town seemed inevitable since compliance of the demands of the Italian Commander by the authorities was altogether out of the question.

I may here observe that the tribe of Beni Marwan is a most powerful one, and has not yet been subdued by the Ottoman Government, whose policy has been not to interfere with it.

Its Sheikh commands about 20,000 tribesmen, and could muster twice that number from the neighbouring clans in case of necessity.

It was very doubtful if the Yemen Government, even aided by the Italians, could capture the Sheikhs of Beni Hakami and Beni Marwan at all, much less within the time demanded by the Commander of the cruiser "Piemonte."

It was decided by the Officer Commanding His Majesty's ship "Harrier" to embark all British and protected subjects on board of his vessel five hours before the time fixed for the bombardment, unless an amicable settlement of their dispute was arrived at between the local authorities and the Italian Commander.

The Italian gun-boat "Barberigo" arrived on the 17th, evening, to take part in the threatened bombardment.

The local authorities replied to the Italian ultimatum at 7 A.M. on the 18th October, acceding to their requests, under orders from the Vali.

The Government agreed to cause arrest of the pirates at Midi within the space of five days, with their belongings, arms, and sambooks, and those at Khor-el-Uahla within a further similar period. These would then be delivered to the Commander of the cruiser "Piemonte."

Should, however, it be found impossible to arrest the above-mentioned pirates, the Government promised to surrender on board the Italian cruiser, Mahomed Gebah and the Sheikhs of Midi and Khor-el-Uahla.

Colonel Riza Bey was placed at the disposal of the Commander of the cruiser "Piemonte," to execute the above conditions, and authorized to use the means he considered best for the purpose.

The Government further stated that Colonel Rushdy Bey was also proceeding with troops in the direction of Midi.

Precisely at 8 o'clock on the 18th, morning, Colonel Riza Bey, accompanied by Fahim Bey, a Secretary at the Yumen Vilayet, with two Sheriefs of Nokra, proceeded on board the "Piemonte."

The same evening, 150 troops were dispatched to Midi by the steam-ship "Noor-el-Bahr," from Hodeidah, and a detachment of 250 also left Lohyea in the same direction.

On the 18th, afternoon, the Acting Italian Consul, who had embarked on the cruiser "Piemonte," and suspended friendly relations with the local Government since the 17th, morning, returned on shore and hoisted his flag over the Italian Consulate.

The Italian Commanders of the "Piemonte" and "Caprera" also visited the Acting Governor on shore.

The cruiser "Caprera" sailed for Massowah, and the gun-boat "Barberigo" for Midi the same evening.

The "Piemonte" left for Perim at midnight on the 19th for coal, whence she was expected to proceed to Midi and Khor-el-Uahla.

His Majesty's ship "Harrier" followed her on to Perim the next evening, promising to return, should the Italian cruiser make for this port again.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. A. RICHARDSON.

Inclosure 2 in No. 296.

M. Cuneo to Vice-Consul Richardson.

M. le Vice-Consul.

Hodeidah, le 16 Octobre, 1902.

J'AI l'honneur de vous informer que M. le Commandant du Royal navire le "Piemonte" est venu dans la décision de poser le suivant ultimatum au Gouvernement local :—

"Je, soussigné, Commandant du Royal navire le "Piemonte," je fixe un délai pour la solution du différend existant entre les deux nations, et j'établis que cela soit pour le jour 18 courant, à 8 heures du matin.

"Si pour cette heure-là ils ne me seront pas consignés à bord de ce Royal navire : le nommé Mohamed Gebah, de Midi, et les deux Cheiks des tribus Beni-Merouan et Beni-Hakami; avec leurs armes, leurs biens, et leurs sambouks, ou si, du moins, un Délégué important du Gouvernement Ottoman, pourvu de pleins pouvoirs, ne se mettra pas à la disposition du commandant de ce navire pour cette heure-là afin d'aller dans les différents lieux où l'on a organisé les expéditions pour les pillages et ordonner l'arrêt des susdits individus, ainsi que de leurs complices ainsi que la saisie de tous leurs biens, sambouks, et armes, aidé, s'il y en aura le cas, par les forces Italiennes, je bombarderai Hodeidah, Midi, et Khor-el-Uahla et je saisirai tous les sambouks Ottomans que je rencontrerai sur mon chemin.

"Dans le cas que ces autorités acceptent de mettre à ma disposition un Délégué avec pleins pouvoirs, celui-ci devra me consigner les susdits individus dans le terme de cinq jours du moment de mon arrivée dans les eaux de Midi et d'autres cinq jours du moment de mon arrivée dans les eaux de Khor-el-Uahla, parce que, dans le cas contraire, je retournerai pour exécuter les bombardements menacés avec l'action relative sur les sambouks Ottomans que je rencontrerais.

(Signé) "Chev. ARNONE,
"Commandant des Forces Navales de la Mer Rouge."

Les réponses données par la Sublime Porte à notre Ambassadeur à l'égard des deux pillages, de Nokra (mois d'Avril) et de Doubellou (mois de Septembre), et des innombrables actes de pirateries supportés par des sambouks Italiens, n'ont pas été concluantes, et c'est pour cela que le Gouvernement Italien est venu dans la décision d'envoyer lui-même une force navale dans la Mer Rouge, qui n'a aucun autre but que celui de la répression absolue de la piraterie. Les conférences qui ont eu lieu dans ces trois derniers jours, soit chez les autorités locales, soit à bord du Royal navire "Piemonte," n'ont démontré qu'une fois de plus, que ces autorités ne cherchent qu'à tergiverser afin de ne pas donner la coopération demandée à l'égard de la répression de la piraterie.

C'est en conséquence de tout cela que M. le Commandant du Royal navire "Piemonte" s'est décidé à poser un ultimatum, en en laissant toute la responsabilité sur le Gouvernement Turc, sur lequel aussi tombera la responsabilité de l'action coercitive qui sera effectuée par les navires de guerre Italiens dans la Mer Rouge.

M. le Commandant vous offre, à vous et à vos sujets, ainsi qu'à vos protégés, l'hospitalité à bord des Royaumes navires qui se trouvent en rade au moins cinq heures avant de mettre en exécution l'opération militaire.

Veuillez, &c.
Le Régent Provisoire,
(Signé) F. CUNEO.

No. 297.

Sir N. O'Connor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received December 6.)

(No. 532.)

Constantinople, December 3, 1902.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to report that I drew the attention of the Minister for Foreign Affairs on the 1st instant to the various incidents reported in the Aden Resident's telegram of the 30th ultimo, repeated to me, and I laid special stress upon the fact that a shot had been fired into the camp of our frontier Commissioners on the 24th ultimo, apparently by the Arab levies, who were reported to be withdrawn in the day but replaced at night.

The Minister lost no time in reporting my remarks to the Grand Vizier, and seemed genuinely distressed at the repetition of these incidents and complaints on both sides, which delayed and interrupted the work of the Commission.

Tewfik Pasha has since informed me that the Grand Vizier has telegraphed to the Turkish Commissioner the substance of my complaints, and impressed upon him the necessity of avoiding incidents such as those related. His Highness added, however, that what we call Arab levies are simply native Arabs who are apparently opposed to the delimitation, and that as the Turkish troops have been withdrawn the Turkish authorities have no longer the power of controlling them.

I maintained that His Majesty's Government had a right to expect the *status quo*, which existed before the Ottoman troops had improperly occupied several places in the disputed territory, should be restored, and that, for instance, no opposition should be made to the return of the Sheikh to Lakmat-es-Saleh. To this the Minister replied that, if his people did not wish to recognise him, his attempt to return might create disturbances, and they could not employ Turkish troops to maintain order as we had insisted on their evacuating the country.

I confess it is not clear to me why the British do not summon the Turkish Commissioners categorically to proceed together to delimitate the north-east frontier. I cannot think our Delegates would incur any risk, even if the Turkish escort is larger than their own, while the presence of the two forces would overcome any opposition on the part of the natives, and the Turkish Commissioners would share the responsibility of any delay or untoward events. Should the Turkish Delegates refuse, for one reason or another, I think I can undertake that positive orders will be sent to them to act conjointly with the British Commissioners.

I again saw the Minister for Foreign Affairs yesterday.

I informed his Excellency of the intention to strengthen the garrison at Aden, in order that the numbers of the British Commissioner's escort should not be inferior to the Turkish forces, as I had pointed out to him the previous day was the case. I also told him that our object in doing so was in no way aggressive, and that His Majesty's Government was anxious it should not be misinterpreted by the Imperial Government.

I invited his Excellency's observations, but he made no remark, and simply implied that he would report to the Grand Vizier.

I have, &c.
(Signed) N. R. O'CONNOR.

No. 298.

Hamid Bey to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received December 6.)

LE Chargé d'Affaires de Turquie présente ses compliments au Marquis de Lansdowne, et a l'honneur de l'informer qu'il a reçu de son Gouvernement pour instructions de porter à la haute connaissance de sa Seigneurie que le Vali intérimaire du Yémen a télégraphié qu'un navire battant pavillon Anglais a tiré des coups de canon sur un sambouk qui conduisait le Lieutenant-Colonel Dr. Moustapha Bey et cinq soldats de l'armée Impériale Ottomane à Midi, en le prenant pour un vaisseau de corsaires.

Hamid Bey a pour devoir d'ajouter que si un navire Anglais se livre à de pareils actes avant de vérifier au préalable leur identité, les envois de commerce pourraient en souffrir et une certaine effervescence en résulter dans les esprits de la population.

C'est dans le but de prévenir des actes de représailles que Hamid Bey est chargé de prier instamment sa Seigneurie de vouloir bien envoyer à qui de droit les ordres nécessaires pour mettre un terme à l'état de choses anormal ci-dessus signalé.

*Ambassade Impériale de Turquie, Londres,
le 5 Décembre, 1902.*

No. 299.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir N. O'Connor.

(No. 176.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Foreign Office, December 6, 1902.

I HAVE just repeated to you two telegrams from the Viceroy of India of the 29th November and the 1st December relative to the Aden delimitation.

A Commission will be issued to Fitzmaurice in same terms as that of Colonel Wahab. The latter will, however, take precedence, as his Commission bears earlier date.

I propose to instruct Fitzmaurice to act in accord with Wahab, to send joint reports with him respecting the proceedings of Commission, and if in any cases he thinks it desirable, or is instructed, to send a separate report to me or to you, to show it to Wahab, in order that the latter may have the opportunity of making his observations upon it.

The Secretary of State for India is not disposed to acquiesce in Viceroy's view, that Amir of Dthali should be allowed to occupy territory which Turks have evacuated until a settlement of the questions at issue has been arrived at in the manner which you have suggested in your telegram No. 131 of the 18th November.

Lord George Hamilton expresses the opinion, in which I concur, that, before arriving at a decision on this and other points at issue, it would be desirable to instruct Fitzmaurice to report as soon as possible on the whole present situation, with special reference to the question as to the occupation of the evacuated territory by the Amir of Dthali, and to that of the most suitable starting-point for demarcation to the north-east.

Please let me have any suggestions or observations you have to offer.

No. 300.

Foreign Office to India Office.

Sir,

Foreign Office, December 6, 1902.

I HAVE laid before the Marquess of Lansdowne your letter of the 4th instant, relative to the delimitation of the British Protectorate near Aden.

With regard to the position of Mr. Fitzmaurice on the Boundary Commission, I am directed by Lord Lansdowne to state that, while he considers it desirable, in view of Mr. Fitzmaurice's experience in negotiating with Turkish authorities, that the actual discussions with the Turkish Commissioners should be left, as far as possible, in his hands, he has no wish to suggest that Mr. Fitzmaurice should supersede Colonel Wahab.

His Lordship would propose, if the Secretary of State for India concurs, to take steps for the issue to Mr. Fitzmaurice of a Commission in the same terms as that of Colonel Wahab. As Colonel Wahab's Commission will bear the earlier date he will take precedence of Mr. Fitzmaurice.

Lord Lansdowne proposes that Mr. Fitzmaurice should be instructed to act in accord with Colonel Wahab in the negotiations, to report jointly with him on the proceedings of the Commission, and, in any cases in which he considers it desirable, or is instructed, to address a separate Report to this Department, or to His Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople, to show it to his colleague, in order that he may have an opportunity of making his observations upon it.

Lord Lansdowne concurs in Lord G. Hamilton's view, that before a decision is come to on the question, whether the Amir of Dthala should be allowed to occupy the

territory evacuated by the Turkish forces, and on the other points at issue in connection with the delimitation, it is desirable that Mr. Fitzmaurice should be instructed to furnish a Report on the present situation.

I am to transmit to you a copy of a telegram which Lord Lansdowne is addressing to Sir N. O'Connor in regard to the matters dealt with in this letter.*

I am, &c.
(Signed) T. H. SANDERSON.

No. 301.

Foreign Office to Admiralty.

(Secret.)

Sir,

Foreign Office, December 6, 1902.

I AM directed by the Marquess of Lansdowne to transmit, for the confidential information of the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, the accompanying copies of telegraphic correspondence, as marked in the margin,† with His Majesty's Minister at Tehran on the subject of a request from the Sheikh of Mohammerah for assurances of protection by His Majesty's Government.

Their Lordships will observe that in the letter which Sir A. Hardinge has been authorized to address to the Sheikh an assurance is given that His Majesty's Government will protect Mohammerah against naval attack by a foreign Power whatever pretext for such attack may be alleged.

I am, &c.
(Signed) T. H. SANDERSON.

No. 302.

Admiral Sir C. Dore to Admiralty.—(Communicated by Admiralty, December 7.)

(Telegraphic.)

Malta, December 6, 1902.

YOUR No. 365. Our dhow, when attacked, as reported by my telegram No. 297, was anchored off Wahla, not less than latitude 16° 40', longitude 42° 38'; was fired upon while sounding with boats. About eighty skirmishers advanced through bush over shoal within range 300 yards under cover of heavy fire from bush until sunset, and sniping during the night. Dhow had her colour flying.

Following telegram received to-day from "Harrier," Loheiya:—

"200 troops landed Wahla. 400 huts, 5,000 yards, deserted owing [to] dilatory action of authorities. Troops fear burn village; 5,000 Arabs [in] vicinity left spies. No authority accept co-operation shell village. Have Consul on board, urg[ing?] representations [to] Governor Sana inadequate steps taken. Redress inquired for utterly impossible. Suggest shelling village."

Have sent following reply:—

"Proposal to shell village is not approved. Naval action is to be strictly confined to seeing that the Turkish officials do their duty."

No. 303.

Sir N. O'Connor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received December 7.)

(No. 137.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Constantinople, December 7, 1902.

THE Secretary to the Foreign Minister has just been sent to tell me that the Vali of Yemen has received a telegram from the British Vice-Consul at Hodeidah stating that the Commander of His Majesty's ship "Speedy" demands that two Turkish

* No. 299.

† Sir A. Hardinge, No. 71, April 17, 1902; and *ante*, Nos. 210, 214, 222, 228, 233, 234, 237, 269, 286, and 294.

officers—Riza and Rusti—shall be sent to Khor-el-Wahla with sufficient number of troops to arrest pirates, and insists on himself destroying four villages in that locality.

The Vali had immediately ordered officers and troops to Wahla, but the Ottoman Government wished to observe, in regard to the destruction of the villages, that pirates are not the only inhabitants, and that the innocent would be unjustly punished with the guilty, and that the proposed action of the Commander is not in consonance with the friendly relations between the two countries, and is inadmissible.

His Excellency earnestly begs that orders may be sent to the Commander to desist from his intention. He has, however, no objection to the "Speedy" remaining on the spot to see that measures for the arrest and punishment of the pirates are carried out by the Turkish authorities to the full extent of their power.

A telegram to this effect has been sent to the Turkish Embassy in London.

I would ask your Lordship to bear in mind my telegram No. 135 of the 3rd instant.

No. 304.

Sir N. O'Connor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received December 7.)

(No. 138.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Constantinople, December 7, 1902.

YOUR Lordship's telegram No. 176 of the 6th instant.

I understand that the present Sheikh of Lakmat-es-Saleh was forcibly installed by the Turks some eight months ago; the desire of the Emir of Dthali to reinstate his own man is not unnatural.

If I can see the Grand Vizier to-morrow, I will try, on the ground of reverting to the *status quo* of October 1901, to persuade his Highness not to support the present occupant.

No. 305.

Sir A. Hardinge to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received December 7.)

(No. 79.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Tehran, December 7, 1902.

YOUR Lordship's telegram No. 58 of the 19th November.

I think the report that Yusuf Khan is coming here to organize road surveys in South Persia by French engineers is improbable. I am, however, sending a despatch on the subject by Tuesday's courier.

No. 306.

Sir N. O'Connor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received December 8.)

(No. 534.)

My Lord,

Constantinople, December 3, 1902.

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith to your Lordship an extract from the semi-official newspaper "Ikdam," of the 27th ultimo, stating that it is proposed to create "Nahies," which is the smallest administrative unit at Zobara, Adide, Dikre, and Jezireh-ul-Amair.

With the exception of Jezireh-ul-Amair, which we are inclined to identify as Abu Ali Island, the other places are on the El Katr Promontory, but, with the exception of Adide (which, we presume, is El Odeid), north of El Bida, where the Turks have a military station, reckoned in 1898 at about 800 men, now probably reduced.

His Majesty's Government has not, as your Lordship is aware, admitted Turkish jurisdiction over the Katr coast, and in 1893 Rustem Pasha was unofficially reminded of Lord Granville's declaration of the 7th May, 1883, to this effect.

Since this declaration was made, Turkish troops were stationed at El Bida without, as far as I recollect, speaking from memory, any protest from His Majesty's Government, although in 1889 we called the Grand Vizier's attention to the objections against

Turkish troops being sent to Katr; while we admitted Turkish jurisdiction as far as El Katif; but since then we have gone back on our admission by our action in regard to Koweit.

I fear any protest against these proposals will be considerably resented at the present moment, when we are already accused of aggressive policy both at Koweit and even Aden; and, though we may record our objections academically—and it may be considered advisable to do so for political reasons—I do not suppose anything will come of it unless we are prepared to go further.

I have, &c.
(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

Inclosure in No. 306.

Extract from the "Ikdam," of November 27, 1902.

(Translation.)

IN view of the topographical importance of the Sanjak of the Nejd, the following is one of the measures which it is found necessary to take:—Nahies will be formed at Zobara (on the coast, and formerly a Nahie, but since suppressed), Adide, Dikre, and Jezireh-ul-Amair, which latter consists of two adjacent islands between Katif and Koweit. The salaries of the Mudirs of Zobara and Adide being stopped, the Mudirs of Dikre and Jezireh-ul-Amair will each receive 650 piastres a-month, in all, 1,300 piastres; four Nahie clerks will be appointed at 225 piastres each, in all, 900 piastres; making a total of 2,300 piastres a-month. A further sum of 23,620 piastres has been assigned for the pay and rations of the Dromedary Cavalry Company, the addition of which to the police force of the Nejd has been sanctioned by Imperial Iradé. One of the Chiefs of the tribes residing on the island is to be appointed Mudir of Jezireh-ul-Amair, and an officer and sufficient number of Zaptie are to be stationed there. The necessary orders in the above sense have been sent to the different departments by the Grand Vizier.

No. 307.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received December 8.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Lord George Hamilton, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of a Secret despatch, dated the 21st November, and inclosures, relative to the proposed sale or lease of Gwadar to the Khan of Khelat.

India Office, December 6, 1902.

Inclosure in No. 307.

Lord G. Hamilton to Government of India.

(Secret.)

My Lord,

India Office, November 21, 1902.

CONSEQUENT upon the receipt of your Secret letter of the 4th September last, suggesting measures for the withdrawal of Gwadar from Muscat control and its inclusion within the sphere of the predominant influence of the Government of India, a correspondence* has taken place between this Office and the Foreign Office.

2. Your Excellency will observe that the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs agrees in the conclusion arrived at by your Government that the sale or lease of Gwadar to the Khan of Khelat would not, strictly speaking, be in contravention of the Anglo-French Declaration of 1862. Lord Lansdowne anticipates, however, that the transaction would be strongly opposed by the French Government, who would have at least colourable grounds for their opposition.

* Nos. 11 and 90.

3. In these circumstances, His Majesty's Government are of opinion that it would not be judicious to raise the question at the present time.

4. With reference to the alternative suggestion made in the final paragraph of Sir Thomas Sanderson's letter of the 29th October, I may observe that there might be inconvenience in making an arrangement that might furnish a precedent that could afterwards be used by other Powers for endeavouring to negotiate the lease of the Customs at some port in the Persian Gulf or on the Persian littoral. Moreover, the situation of Gwadar brings it so indisputably within the preponderating influence of the British Government, that the warning already conveyed by your Excellency's Government to the Sultan of Muscat (which I approve and confirm) of your determination to prohibit any association of that portion of his territory with another Power, may be expected to prevent effectually any interference of the kind that your Excellency apprehends. In these circumstances I entertain some doubt whether it is worth while to proceed further in the matter. But I shall await a communication of your Excellency's opinion on this point.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE HAMILTON.

No. 308.

Hamid Bey to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received December 8.)

LE Chargé d'Affaires de Turquie présente ses compliments au Marquis de Lansdowne, et a l'honneur de l'informer qu'il a reçu, pour instructions de son Gouvernement, de porter à la connaissance de sa Seigneurie, les faits suivants :—

Le Vali du Yemen vient de faire savoir à la Sublime Porte que le Consul d'Angleterre à Hodeida l'a avisé, télégraphiquement, que le Commandant Anglais insiste pour détruire et incendier lui-même les quatre villages de Horelvahle, et demande l'envoi immédiat dans ces parages avec des forces suffisantes de Kiamil et Ruchdi Beys, qui se trouvaient dans la ville de Middi, qu'ils avaient visitée pour opérer l'arrestation des coupables. A la suite de cette démarche les dispositions nécessaires ont été prises pour l'envoi immédiat des dits officiers à Horelvahle avec des troupes en nombre suffisant, et le Vali en a informé aussitôt le Consul, qui réclamait une réponse.

L'empressement mis par les autorités du vilayet à adopter des mesures efficaces en vue de l'arrestation et de la punition des corsaires coupables dispense de donner d'autres preuves du souci du Gouvernement Impérial à remplir exactement ses devoirs ; mais la Sublime Porte fait observer qu'il serait injuste de bombarder des villages entiers dont les habitants se sont enfuis par peur et parmi lesquels on pourrait, peut-être, constater la présence de quelques pirates sans tenir compte des innocents qui seraient ainsi atteints. Le Gouvernement Impérial ajoute qu'au surplus l'insistance mise à vouloir exécuter une mesure aussi sévère sur le littoral d'un État par les forces d'une autre Puissance mérite d'attirer la plus sérieuse attention.

Bien que les Italiens eussent usé d'un pareil procédé à Middi, les publications des organes principaux de la presse ont démontré que cette intervention arbitraire de l'Italie avait rencontré la réprobation générale de l'Europe, attendu qu'en considérant même les corsaires hors la loi, le soin de les châtier revient de par le droit international à l'État dont ils dépendent.

Hamid Bey a pour devoir de déclarer que la Sublime Porte aime à espérer que le Cabinet de Londres, mu par ses sentiments de justice et eu regard aux relations de bonne amitié existant entre les deux pays, ne vaudra pas recourir à des actes arbitraires de cette nature, et il est chargé d'assurer fermement sa Seigneurie que le Gouvernement Impérial fera tout ce qui sera nécessaire pour l'arrestation et la punition sévère de ceux des habitants des dits villages qui seraient reconnus comme pirates.

Le Chargé d'Affaires de Turquie prie, donc, sa Seigneurie de vouloir bien faire transmettre au Commandant Anglais l'ordre de renoncer à sa demande concernant la destruction de ces localités.

*Ambassade Impériale de Turquie,
Londres, le 8 Décembre, 1902.*

No. 309.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir N. O'Connor.

(No. 177.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

ADEN frontier.

Foreign Office, December 8, 1902.

Your despatch No. 552 of the 3rd December, mentioned in your telegram No. 136 of the 5th December, has now reached me.

I understand from it that no communication of the nature described by the Turkish Chargé d'Affaires was made by you to the Porte, but, in my reply to him, I will omit any statement that you have been misunderstood, and will dwell on the necessity which we find, in view of what has taken place, of increasing the British force on the spot, so that it may be on an equality with the force of the Turkish Government.

No. 310.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir N. O'Connor.

(No. 178.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

PIRACY in Red Sea.

Foreign Office, December 8, 1902.

I have received your telegram No. 137 of the 7th December.

Commander-in-chief, Mediterranean Station, reports that a British dhow, while anchored off Wahla, and sounding with boats, was fired on by pirates. About eighty skirmishers advanced through bush over shoal to within 300 yards range under cover of heavy fire from bush until sunset. Sniping continued during the night.

A telegram, dated the 6th December, from Commander of His Majesty's ship "Harrier," at Loheiya, states that 200 Turkish troops were landed at Wahla, and that, owing to the dilatory action of the authorities, 400 huts, 5,000 yards away, were deserted. Five thousand Arabs were in the vicinity, and the troops were afraid to burn the village. His Majesty's Vice-Consul at Hodeidah was on board. Commander suggested shelling village, as it appeared to be impossible to obtain the redress desired.

Commander-in-chief has informed him, in reply, that the village must not be shelled, and that action by His Majesty's ships must be strictly confined to seeing that the duty of the Turkish officials is properly performed.

No. 311.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir N. O'Connor.

(No. 180.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Foreign Office, December 8, 1902.

PIRACY in the Red Sea. I have received your telegram No. 137 of the 7th December.

A telegram to the effect described by you was brought by the Turkish Chargé d'Affaires this afternoon. In reply, he was informed that the attack on the British dhow was supported by a large number of men, and seemed to have been a very serious one; that the measures which the Turkish authorities had taken to punish the offenders were, according to the report which had been received from the Commander of His Majesty's ship "Harrier," altogether ineffectual; that the Commander had been ordered to abstain from bombarding the village, and to await further action by the Turkish authorities; but that it would be impossible for His Majesty's Government to allow the outrage to remain unpunished, and that they must earnestly impress upon the Turkish Government the necessity for taking prompt and vigorous action in the matter.

No. 312.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Hamid Bey.

THE Marquess of Lansdowne presents his compliments to the Turkish Chargé d'Affaires, and has the honour to acknowledge the receipt of his note of the 2nd instant,

in which it is stated that His Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople has called the attention of the Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs to acts of aggression by Arabs at Souhaf on the Aden frontier, and has declared that, unless he receives within twenty-four hours definite assurances that the repetition of such acts will be prevented, troops will be sent from India to Aden to expel the Arabs.

Lord Lansdowne has received a telegram from Sir N. O'Connor reporting that, in accordance with instructions which had been sent to him, he had informed Tewfik Pasha that it was proposed to send a battalion to Aden in order to reinforce, if necessary, the escort of the British Commissioners on the frontier, and that he had explained to his Excellency that the measure was in no way aggressive, but was being adopted in consequence of the inferiority of numbers which had hitherto existed between the numbers of the escort accompanying the British Commissioners as compared with the Turkish troops in the neighbourhood of the Commission. The result has been that a series of delays and unfortunate complications have arisen, which the instructions sent from Constantinople have not even yet remedied.

His Majesty's Government are anxious to co-operate with the Porte in the most friendly manner in the delimitation of the frontier of the Aden Protectorate. The reports of the British Commissioners, however, show that the attitude of the Turkish Commissioners still continues to be obstructive, and, in view of what has already occurred, His Majesty's Government consider it necessary that the British troops on the spot should not be inferior in strength to the forces at the disposal of the Turkish Commissioners.

Foreign Office, December 8, 1902.

No. 313.

Admiralty to Foreign Office.—(Received December 9.)

Sir, *Admiralty, December 5, 1902.*
I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to transmit herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, a copy of a letter of proceedings from Commander E. C. Tower, of His Majesty's ship "Harrier," relative to piracy and slave-running in the Red Sea.

I am, &c.
(Signed) EVAN MACGREGOR.

Inclosure 1 in No. 313.

Commodore Tower to Admiral Sir C. Domville.

Sir, *"Harrier," at Hodeidah, November 5, 1902.*
IN continuance of my letter of proceedings, I have the honour to report that I have been lying at Hodeidah during the past ten days, in compliance with Admiralty telegram to remain here until further orders.

2. The four Italian vessels have, I believe, been to the northward all this week, lying off Medi, and various rumours reach me by the coast and by sambooks of what has been taking place; but it is difficult to get accurate information, as the Arabs have cut the wires between that place and Lobeiya.

It seems certain, however, that 4,000 Ottoman troops have been brought by transports to Medi from the garrisons of Lobeiya, Sana, and Hodeidah, and these are operating against the Beni Merwan, which tribe have, however, command of the water supply and the wells, as water for the troops has been leaving this port during the week. In fighting for the command of the wells the Turks are reported to have lost 400 men, the Arabs 150.

3. The Turks have captured the Sheikh of Medi and a petty Sheikh of the Beni Merwan, who, it will be remembered, were demanded in the terms of the Italian ultimatum.

4. Sixty sacks of flour, under a Turkish guard of thirty soldiers against attacks by pirates, have left Hodeidah for the troops during the week.

5. Another act of piracy is reported by arriving dhows from the Farisan group of islands, this time consisting of 30,000 dollars from the pearl fishers, as well as 16,000 dollars' worth of piece goods; and this must have taken place within but a short

distance of Medi, where four Italian men-of-war are anchored, which points to the fact that the pirates, instead of being intimidated by their presence, have taken advantage of their being busily occupied.

6. My No. 1 dhow rejoined me from her northern beat on the 2nd instant at Hodeidah, as ordered. She had somewhat opened out in the bows in a heavy sea off Zebayeir Group, and had to put into Kamaran and be beached for repairs. She reports not having encountered any dhows of interest, and, owing to having to repair her, she was unable to work far enough to the northward.

7. Being anxious about my No. 2 dhow, five days overdue at this rendezvous, I dispatched No. 1 dhow on Monday, the 3rd November, to look for her to the southward on her beat (as I telegraphed to you), and left myself at 4 A.M. on the 4th November in search of her. After closely searching the coast of Jah, I found her under Jebel Zukur, she having unaccountably mistaken the change of rendezvous necessary by my being ordered to remain at Hodeidah. I carried out half-quarter's practice with heavy guns at a target off Jebel Zukur in the afternoon, and towed my two dhows back to Hodeidah, anchoring in 10 fathoms at 9.30 P.M. yesterday. This morning exercised running torpedoes from ship at anchor, and shifted berth close in later in forenoon.

8. To-day I am reprovisioning the dhows, and to-morrow they leave again for their respective beats; but, being somewhat tied by remaining at Hodeidah at present, it is not possible to extend their operations as far to the north to leeward as I would wish, where the pirates appear to be most active. I hope to have more success during the coming fortnight; but the winds at present are capricious and unsettled.

9. It is reported that an armed dhow of the Italians burnt a dhow in Medi creek last week, after searching her, whereupon the occupants of other neighbouring Arab dhows attacked the Italians, who lost four men and two wounded.

10. The health of the ship's company is satisfactory.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CYRIL TOWER,
Commander and Senior Naval Officer, Red Sea Division.

Inclosure 2 in No. 313.

Commodore Tower to Lieutenant Leveson-Gower, R.N.

(Memorandum.) *"Harrier," at Hodeidah, November 6, 1902.*

ARMED dhow No. 1 being in all respects ready and provisioned for thirty days, you will proceed to the northward and resume your former station, carrying out previous written instructions of the 16th October.

3. I shall endeavour to be at Fasht Island on the 19th November, and anchor there for the night; should I not find you at Fasht, I proceed at daylight, the 20th November, to Dumsuk Island, again anchoring for the night, returning to Hodeidah the following day, the 21st November. You will make every effort to be at one of the above places on the dates mentioned, but should you be unable to do so, you will rendezvous at Hodeidah on the 30th November.

(Signed) CYRIL TOWER,
Commander and Senior Naval Officer, Red Sea Division.

Inclosure 3 in No. 313.

Commodore Tower to Sub-Lieutenant Plowden, R.N.

(Memorandum.) *"Harrier," at Hodeidah, November 6, 1902.*

BEING in all respects ready and provisioned for thirty days, you are to proceed to the southward in No. 2 dhow, and resume your former station, and carry out your previous written instructions of the 16th October.

2. As the track of the dhows is to the southward of Jebel Zukur, which passage will always be made by them at night, you will do well to anchor for the night occasionally under the lee of Little Hanish to the northward, or else inside Low Island, and at other times, when the weather allows, to anchor off El Gah, Majalis, or off Zebid or Sahari, which latter

place is a good anchorage, I understand (if so, make a rough survey of it, for my information, if time allows), observing that you should take up your anchorages off these creeks after dark, and before midnight if possible.

4. I shall endeavour to be to the northward of Little Hanish on Monday forenoon, the 17th November, but if I am unable to do so, you will rendezvous at Hodeidah on Saturday, the 22nd November, for orders, and should there be no orders for you, go back to your beat and rendezvous again at Hodeidah on the 30th November.

(Signed) CYRIL TOWER,
Commander and Senior Naval Officer, Red Sea Division.

No. 314.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received December 9.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Lord George Hamilton, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of telegraphic correspondence with the Viceroy, relative to assurances to be given to the Sheikh of Mohammerah.

India Office, December 8, 1902.

Inclosure 1 in No. 314.

Government of India to Lord G. Hamilton.

(Telegraphic.) P.

November 26, 1902.

WITHOUT venturing an opinion upon the exact terms of the assurance which Sir A. Hardinge proposes we should give to the Sheikh of Mohammerah, I desire strongly to support Hardinge's general position. (See his telegram to Foreign Office, dated 23rd (? 20th) November.) If there is a Chief whose claims entitle him to our support it is the Sheikh of Mohammerah, while, if there is any part of Southern Persia where a special demand exists for the protection of British interests against foreign competition or intrigue, it is the mouth of the Karun River. A main cause of our weakness in Persia is our failure to support those Chiefs and officials who are disposed to side with us.

Inclosure 2 in No. 314.

Lord G. Hamilton to Government of India.

(Telegraphic.) P.

India Office, December 4, 1902.

I COMMUNICATED to Lord Lansdowne a copy of your telegram of 26th November, relative to Mohammerah, and it was before him during his correspondence with Sir A. Hardinge, to whose telegram, No. 74, dated 28th November, he has sent the following reply:—"The text of the material portion of your letter to the Sheikh should be sent to me. To inform him that we would protect Mohammerah against a naval attack by a foreign Power, whatever pretext might be alleged, seems to me unobjectionable, and we might equally promise him our good offices and support so long as he remains faithful to the Shah and acts in accordance with our advice. The language which you propose to hold to the Grand Vizier appears to be appropriate." I understand that Sir A. Hardinge repeats to you all the telegrams he sends to the Foreign Office. How far does he repeat to you those the Foreign Office send to him?

No. 315.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received December 9.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Lord George Hamilton, forwards

herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of a telegram from the Resident, Aden, dated the 8th December, relative to the Aden delimitation.

India Office, December 8, 1902.

Inclosure in No. 315.

Brigadier-General Maitland to Lord G. Hamilton.

(Telegraphic.) P.

Aden, December 8, 1902.

PLEASE see my telegram, dated 30th November.

I have received from Colonel Wahab information that 120 Turkish soldiers, with their band, have marched to Kataba from Jalele.

On the 3rd December Khalil Bey, who was Kaim Makam of Kataba, and an additional member of the Turkish Commission, was shot dead by one of his own troopers, an Arab who had been enlisted locally. It is reported that revenge for oppression on the part of Khalil Bey was the motive for the deed.

No. 316.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received December 9.)

Sir,

India Office, December 8, 1902.

WITH reference to the letter from Sir T. Sanderson of the 19th November last, relative to the complaint of the Turkish Chargé d'Affaires, that attacks had been made by the Subaihi tribe on a tribe under Turkish jurisdiction, I am directed by Lord George Hamilton to forward, for the information of the Marquess of Lansdowne, copy of a telegram which his Lordship sent to the Viceroy on the 26th November, and of the reply received from the Resident on the 4th instant.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. GODLEY.

Inclosure 1 in No. 316.

Lord G. Hamilton to Government of India.

(Telegraphic.) P.

India Office, November 26, 1902.

ON the 18th November the Foreign Office received a complaint from the Turkish Chargé d'Affaires to the effect that on the 13th November the Subaihi had made an attack on the Hakem tribe belonging to the Moha district, and that some men were killed and goods pillaged in the affray.

It was also stated that the Subaihi had burned the village of Debal in the same district, and that the son of Avas-Sahib, one of the Hakem Sheikhs, had been killed by them.

The Turkish Chargé d'Affaires added that steps to prevent reprisals had already been taken by the Ottoman authorities, and he requested that instructions to check this new aggression might be sent to the authorities at Aden.

A report as to the facts should be furnished by the Resident.

Inclosure 2 in No. 316.

Brigadier-General Maitland to Lord G. Hamilton.

(Telegraphic.) P.

Aden, December 4, 1902.

WE have no information of any such occurrence as the alleged attack by Subaihis on the Hakem tribe, reported in your telegram to the Viceroy of the 26th November. Without our knowledge, it is improbable that such an attack could have taken place.

The Hakem are a tribe on the Red Sea Coast, to the north of Babel-mandeb, and on the map Debab is marked as about 16 miles from Sheikh Said.

Further inquiries are being made, though it is improbable that the Subaihis could have raided the Hakem while a strong Turkish force was at Babel-mandeb.

No. 317.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received December 9.)

Sir,

India Office, December 9, 1902.

I AM directed by the Secretary of State for India to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 6th instant, forwarding copy of a telegram which the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs is addressing to His Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople on the subject of the position of Mr. Fitzmaurice on the Aden Delimitation Commission and on the instructions to be issued to him.

It seems to Lord George Hamilton that an arrangement under which Mr. Fitzmaurice will be given the power to address a report "in any cases where he thinks it desirable," either to the Foreign Office or to the Embassy at Constantinople, may not only lead to friction between the Commissioners, but will more than neutralize the position which it is intended that Colonel Wahab should hold as Senior Commissioner, and will tend to transfer the negotiations from the control of the Indian Government.

Lord George Hamilton would prefer that Mr. Fitzmaurice's power of reporting, otherwise than as a member of the Commission, should be limited to cases in which he is called on to do so by Sir N. O'Connor, and that any special reports which Mr. Fitzmaurice may make should be addressed to His Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople, and not to the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs. Any communication which Mr. Fitzmaurice might address direct to the Foreign Office would almost certainly be regarded by Colonel Wahab as carrying more weight than the reports which he and Mr. Fitzmaurice, as Commissioners, were submitting through the Resident at Aden to this Office.

I am, therefore, to submit, for Lord Lansdowne's consideration, the modification shown in the margin of the inclosed copy of the instructions, which Lord George Hamilton thinks will secure the objects which Lord Lansdowne and he have in view.

As regards the second paragraph, marked "Confidential," of Sir N. O'Connor's telegram of the 3rd December, forwarded to this Office on the same date, I am directed to say that Lord George Hamilton is of opinion that it is undesirable to make further representations to the British Commissioner till the report which Mr. Fitzmaurice is being instructed to submit is received.

The arrival of Mr. Fitzmaurice has not yet been notified by the Resident at Aden.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HORACE WALPOLE.

No. 318.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir E. Monson.

(No. 489 A.)

Sir,

Foreign Office, December 9, 1902.

AT an interview with the French Ambassador on the 26th ultimo, I referred to the information which had reached His Majesty's Government that two subjects of the Sultan of Muscat, residing at Sur, and named Juma-bin-Saeed-bin-Bilal El Mukheini and Mubarak-bin-Saif-bin Mubarak El Mukheini had recently received French flags from French Consular officers.

Your Excellency will find the particulars of these cases in the letter from the India Office of the 5th November, forwarded to your Excellency in the Confidential print on Persia and Arabia (Section 2 of the 6th November), and the incident seems to give additional force to the suggestion which I made to M. Cambon on the 16th April last, that, for the convenience of all parties, it would be desirable that a list of the dhows and owners considered to be entitled to the use of the French flag should be communicated to the Sultan of Muscat, and also supplied to His Majesty's Consul, for the information of the British cruisers stationed in these waters.

I made an observation to this effect to M. Cambon, adding that we had more than once received assurances that instructions had been given to the French Consuls at the ports in the Red Sea and elsewhere to limit the issue of papers of protection to those

subjects of the Sultan of Muscat who were legitimately entitled to them in June 1900, and that I presumed those instructions were being strictly observed.

M. Cambon reverted to the subject at an interview which I had with him to-day. His Excellency told me that he regarded it as indispensable that our conversations on the affairs of Muscat, and especially with regard to the French papers granted to the Suri dhow-owners, should retain the unofficial character which they had from the first possessed.

He could not admit that the protection accorded by the French Government to these Arabs was a question in which any other Power had the right to interfere. He was, however, in a position to inform me that the French Government were not giving papers to any dhow which did not already possess them, although, in one or two cases, new papers had been taken out to replace old ones, either because the old ones had been damaged, or for some equally sufficient reason.

I noticed that his Excellency avoided any reference to the suggestion that lists should be furnished of the dhow-owners entitled to protection.

I am, &c.

(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

No. 319.

Admiralty to Foreign Office.—(Received December 10.)

Sir,

Admiralty, December 6, 1902.

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to transmit to you herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, extracts from a letter dated the 8th ultimo, with inclosures, from the Senior Naval Officer, Red Sea Division, on the subject of the suppression of piracy and the Slave Trade in the Red Sea.

I am, &c.

(Signed) EVAN MACGREGOR.

Inclosure in No. 319.

Commander Tower to Admiral Sir C. Domville.

(Extracts.)

"Harrier" at Sea, Lat. $13^{\circ} 41\frac{1}{2}'$ North, Long. $42^{\circ} 57\frac{1}{2}'$ East,
November 8, 1902.

IN continuance of my letter of proceedings, Senior Naval Officer, Red Sea, No. 8, I have the honour to report that on receipt of telegram from Admiralty at noon of yesterday's date, ordering "Harrier" to Aden, I telegraphed to you my No. 28 to acquaint you that the two armed dhows were away cruising, also their orders to rendezvous at Hodeidah on the 22nd and 30th November.

No. 1 dhow was within signal distance at the time, and I ordered her by signal to rendezvous at Hodeidah also on the 22nd November, thinking that His Majesty's ship "Speedy" could be there by that date.

2. I inclose copies of my orders to the two dhows, and have left sealed copies in the care of the Vice-Consul at Hodeidah, addressed to British Naval Officer, Hodeidah.

3. At 2 a.m. to-day I received your No. 6, and left two hours later for Perim Island, encountering a heavy head sea.

4. Having left twenty-three men in the two armed dhows, I am retaining the seedies until further orders, to assist in working the ship while short-handed.

5. I hope to arrive at Perim at about 7 this evening, deposit the Senior Naval Officer's box with the Assistant Resident, pending the arrival of His Majesty's ship "Speedy," and leave an hour later for Aden.

No. 320.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received December 10.)

Sir,

India Office, December 8, 1902.

I AM directed by the Secretary of State for India to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 3rd instant, forwarding copy of a note by the Turkish Chargé d'Affaires, complaining that a British detachment has endeavoured to go to Djebel-i-Hidjaf by way of the village of Afir, which is stated to be in the disputed territory, and that the British Commissioners have established themselves at Lakhmat-ash-Shab.

Lord George Hamilton has telegraphed to the Resident at Aden to ask for information on both points.

As regards Lakhmat-ash-Shab, it will be remembered that the Resident, in his telegram of the 16th November, stated that the British Commissioner hoped soon to be able to move there with his party, but that on the 30th November he reported that, as the situation had not materially improved since the withdrawal of the Turkish posts, Colonel Wahab had postponed the movement of the Commission.

I am, &c.
(Signed) HORACE WALPOLE.

No. 321.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received December 10.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Lord George Hamilton, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copies of letters from the Resident at Aden relative to the Aden delimitation.

India Office, December 9, 1902.

Inclosure 1 in No. 321.

Political Resident, Aden, to Lord G. Hamilton.

(Confidential.)

Aden Residency, November 8, 1902.

COPY of Colonel Wahab's Secret letter, dated Camp Dthala, the 6th instant, forwarded, with compliments, to the Secretary, Political and Secret Department, India Office, London. It covers the political diary of the Commission from the 29th October to the 5th November, 1902, inclusive.

(For Political Resident).
(Signed) J. S. ASHBY, Lieutenant-Colonel.

Note.—Copies of the Diary have been forwarded to the Government of India, Foreign Department, and the Government of Bombay.

Inclosure 2 in No. 321.

Diary.

(October 29 to November 5, inclusive.)

October 29.—Convoy arrived from Aden. Seyid Hassan of Dthala returned from his journey, but brings little information of any value.

October 31.—Interviewed Sheikh Husen-bin-Hassan of the Humedi; he reports all quiet.

November 2.—Captain Warneford arrived from Aden, and communicated to the Amir of Dthala the invitation from the Government of India to attend the Coronation Durbar at Delhi. The Amir readily accepted. Lieutenants Wheeler and Little arrived with Captain Warneford on reconnaissance duty in view of the possible movement of troops.

November 3.—Received a letter from Sheikh Husen-bin-Hassan of the Humedi; he reports that one of the Turkish Boundary Commissioners, Lieutenant-Colonel Ibrahim Seifi, has been to Jabal Mafari and summoned Shaif Mukbil of the Humedi, Sheikh Tahir-bin-Hadi of the Ahmadi, and others; that he promised monthly stipends amounting to 60 dollars to the Ahmadi, and 60 dollars to Ghalib and others of the Mafari, with a view to a Turkish force proceeding shortly to Al Hakl in the Ahmadi country, there to build a tower. It is also reported that a letter was sent from Jabal Mafari to Sheikh Hassan of the Azraki. The messenger read the letter to him, but refused to give it to him. Sheikh Hassan threatened to imprison him, whereupon he departed.

November 4.—It is reported that Khalil Bey, the new Kaïmakam and Commandant, visited Jalela yesterday, accompanied by the Sheikhs of the Al Aud, Al Haiki, &c., and a number of Arabs, and that he paid up the Arab levies. His purpose seems to have been to remove the impression created by the building of a post at Nadira, that the Turks were about to withdraw.

The Amir came to camp, and it was arranged that his son Nasir should go down with Captain Warneford to visit Aden.

November 5.—The Amir brought Sheikh Awas of the Ahmadi for an interview. Sheikh Awas protested that in intriguing with the Turks his father and uncle were acting without his knowledge or approval. The Amir then spoke to him severely, saying that he could put a stop to these intrigues if he chose, or if he showed his inability, the Amir's own forces would be sent to occupy the Ahmadi country, and, if necessary, arrest and deport Sheikh Tahir to Dthala.

(Secret.)

Camp Dthala, November 6, 1902.

Forwarded to the Resident, Aden.

(Signed) R. A. WAHAB, Colonel,
Commissioner, Aden Boundary Commission.

Inclosure 3 in No. 321.

Political Resident, Aden, to Lord G. Hamilton.

(Confidential.)

Aden Residency, November 12, 1902.

COLONEL WAHAB'S Secret letter, dated Camp Dthala, the 8th November last, forwarded, with compliments, to the Secretary, Political and Secret Department, India Office, London. It covers the political diary of the Commission for the 6th and 7th November last inclusive.

(For Political Resident).
(Signed) J. S. ASHBY, Lieutenant-Colonel.

Note.—Copies of the diary have been forwarded to the Government of India, Foreign Department, and the Government of Bombay.

Inclosure 4 in No. 321.

Diary.

(November 6 and 7.)

November 6.—Lieutenant-Colonel Ibrahim Seifi came over from Jalela in the morning to inform us that orders had been received by the Ottoman Commissioners to commence the delimitation of the frontier to the north-east from the limit of Dthala territory; also to withdraw their troops from Jabal Jihaf and Jabal Mafari. He denied that they had received orders for the evacuation of Jabal Shahad, or for the recognition of the Yafa as one of the nine tribes. After a brief discussion as to the places to which the camps of the Commission should be moved with a view to commencing delimitation to the north-east, it was agreed that a formal meeting should take place in the British camp to-morrow.

Interviewed the Amir of Dthala, who made anxious inquiries about rumours that had reached him of the intended withdrawal of the Turks.

Interviewed Sheikh Saleh-bin-Muthanna, of the Shairi village of Lakamat-al-Hajfar, near Jalela, who came to make friendly advances.

Captain Warneford, Assistant Resident, started to return to Aden, accompanied by Lieutenant Wheeler; Lieutenant Little remains here for the present, as he is sick.

It is reported that Khalil Bey, the Commandant of Kataba, has told the Arab levies in Turkish employ that they are to maintain their positions on the withdrawal of the Turkish troops.

November 7.—Colonel Mustapha Ramzi, Lieutenant-Colonel Ibrahim Seifi, and Adjutant-Major Zakariya Bey came to the British camp at 8 A.M., and the sixth formal meeting of the Commission took place. The fifth was on the 13th March last, the only intermediate meeting being the semi-formal one on the 30th July. A full report of the proceedings of to-day's meeting is given in my despatch to Secretary, Foreign Department, India, dated the 8th November.

(Secret.)

Camp Dthala, November 8, 1902.

Forwarded to the Resident at Aden for favour of transmission to Political Secretary, India Office.

(Signed) R. A. WAHAB, Colonel,
Commissioner, Aden Boundary Commission.

Inclosure 5 in No. 321.

Political Resident, Aden, to Lord G. Hamilton.

(Confidential.)

Aden Residency, November 22, 1902.

Colonel Wahab's Secret letter, dated Camp Dthala, the 20th November, 1902, forwarded, with compliments, to the Secretary, Political and Secret Department, India Office, London. It covers the political diary of the Commission from the 14th to 19th November last, inclusive.

(For Political Resident),

(Signed) R. S. POTTINGER, Captain.

Note.—Copies of the diary have been forwarded to the Government of India, Foreign Department, and the Government of Bombay.

Inclosure 6 in No. 321.

Diary.

(November 14 to 19, inclusive.)

November 14.—Interviewed Sheikh Ali bin Ali Nagi az Zendani, of Jabal Jihaf, and warned him that he was on no account to cause trouble at the present juncture, or he would suffer for it.

Interviewed Sheikh Nagi Sef, of the Mufflahai clan of the Upper Yafa, who lives at Shuka, a village five miles north-east of Jalela. Made enquiries about Yafa inter-tribal relations. Shuka is a Mufflahai village.

November 15.—Received letters from Sheikh Ali Mohsin Askar, of the Mawsata clan of the Upper Yafa, telling us that he had heard that the Turkish Government at San'a were very alarmed at the attitude of the British, and were prepared to yield on the frontier. He asks for information on this and other points, and demands repayment of 400 dollars, which he says he disbursed in settling the Jabal Harir affair (Diary 16th to 22nd October).

Received a letter from Colonel Mustapha Ramzi announcing that the withdrawal of the Turkish troops from the points agreed upon was completed this morning, and asking me to propose the time and place for a meeting to arrange about the move to Kataba and Lakmat ash Sh'ub.

November 16.—Wrote to Colonel Mustapha Ramzi proposing a meeting at 9 A.M. to-morrow.

Interviewed two Sheikhs of the Hadthrami clan of the Upper Yafa, and made enquiries about the Yafa country and inter-tribal relations.

Dispatched a Memorandum on the Amiri country to assist the Government in coming to a decision about the boundary.

Replied to the Sheikh Ali Mohsin Askar, of the Upper Yafa, that I wish him to come and visit me as soon as possible, and to remain with me during the delimitation of the Yafa border.

Received a letter from Colonel Mustapha Ramzi to the effect that news had reached him that a detachment composed of English soldiers and armed men of Dthala, commanded by British officers, had attempted to ascend Jabal Jihaf yesterday, and had fired on the villagers of Jabal Jihaf; he reproached me with a violation of my promise and official assurance given at the last conference, and with the commission of an unfriendly act. Wrote repudiating the accusation, the sole foundation for which is that yesterday our transport contractor's agent, with two of his Arab employes, approached a village on the slopes of Jabal Jihaf nearest to Dthala with the purpose of buying honey from the villagers. A number of armed Arabs turned out and warned him off, and fired several shots, whereupon he withdrew.

November 17.—Colonel Mustapha Ramzi, Lieutenant-Colonel Ibrahim Seifi, and Adjutant-Major Zakariya Bey came over, and the seventh meeting of the Joint Commission took place. A full report of the proceedings is given in my Secret letter dated the 20th instant.

The Amir brought a letter which he had received from Sheikh Ali Mohsin Askar, of the Upper Yafa, to the same effect as the letters received by me.

November 18.—The Amir informed me that Sheikh Hamud ibn Ahmad Ali Ad Daghar, of Jabal Heshah, and Sheikh Ali Abdallah, of the 'Ataba district on the south-western slopes of Jabal Heshah, have arrived in Dthala, and that they are desirous of British protection. The countries of both these Sheikhs are west of the Wadi Tiban, beyond the Amiri border. They have told the Amir that the Turks have imposed exorbitant taxation upon them, and that they are resolved to resist to the last, whether they receive British support or not. Explained to the Amir that our relations to the Turks preclude our accepting any advances from the people across the frontier line which we mean to claim, or encouraging disaffection towards the Turks.

Lieutenant-Colonel Ibrahim Seifi came over from Jalela to say that they had heard that on the occasion of a wedding between a man of Dthala, and a woman of Al War'a, a large armed party were going to the latter place to fetch the bride away; he requested that to avoid any fear of trouble we would instruct the Amir to limit the party to four or five men.

Reassured him, and spoke to the Amir accordingly. Told Lieutenant-Colonel Ibrahim Seifi that some delay is likely to occur before we can move to the Yafa country; that it seems necessary to hold a preliminary meeting of the Chiefs; that as this could hardly take place till after the Ramadan fast, the move of the Commission to the Yafa country is likely to be delayed till early in January. Also that in any case the move could not take place so long as the Turkish Commissioners refused to recognize the Yafa as one of the nine tribes.

November 19.—The Al War'a wedding passed off without trouble; the situation, while the Dthala boundary remains unsettled, is, however, one of considerable tension, and it is evident that a trifling incident might lead to serious trouble.

(Secret.)

Camp Dthala, November 20, 1902.

Forwarded to the Resident at Aden for favour of transmission to the Political Secretary, India Office.

(Signed) R. A. WAHAB, Colonel,
Commissioner, Aden Boundary Commission.

Inclosure 7 in No. 321.

Political Resident, Aden, to Lord G. Hamilton.

(Confidential.)

Aden Residency, November 22, 1902.

COPY of Colonel Wahab's Secret letter, dated Camp Dthala, the 20th November last, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department, forwarded with compliments to the Secretary, Political and Secret Department, India Office, London.

(For Political Resident),

(Signed) R. S. POTTINGER, *Captain.*

Note.—A copy of this despatch has been forwarded to the Bombay Government.

Inclosure 8 in No. 321.

Colonel Wahab to Government of India.

(Secret.)

Sir,

Camp Dthala, November 20, 1902.

I HAVE the honour to report as follows on the seventh meeting of the Joint Commission, which took place on Monday morning, the 17th instant:—

I began with a strong expression of resentment at the aspersion cast upon my good faith by Colonel Mustapha Ramzi's letter of the day before (see Diary of the 16th November). I took the opportunity to repeat my protests against the attitude of suspicion and unfriendliness which the Turkish officials have not ceased to maintain towards their British colleagues, and which renders impossible the frank co-operation which is essential for the success of the Commission. As evidences of this attitude, I instanced the garrisoning of Jabal Mafari, in direct defiance of my friendly protests; the outrage upon our camelmén in March; the attack upon my Surveyor by their Arab levies; the constant patrolling at night to within a short distance of our camp; the posting of armed Arabs with orders to treat anyone approaching from our camp as an enemy; and the various hostile demonstrations clearly traceable to Turkish instigation, to which we have had to submit. The Turkish Commissioners merely deprecated our taking so serious a view, and said little to encourage any hope that this remonstrance will have more effect than previous ones.

I obtained a definite assurance from the Turkish Commissioners that their troops have been withdrawn from Jabal Mafari, Jabal Jihaf, and Jabal Shahad, and that Seyid Ahmad is free to return without molestation into possession of his house and property at Lakmat as Sallah; also that the cordon of Arab levies on the line south of Jalela had been finally withdrawn.

I then produced the identical map to be forwarded to our respective Governments, with the boundary-line which we claim marked upon it. The Turkish Commissioners demurred as to the smallness of the scale, but I pointed out to them that, beside the fact that a map on a larger scale would be unwieldy in size, we had not materials for a more detailed map, also that this scale showed tribal boundaries as clearly as could be desired for the use of our respective Governments, since they could only decide generally which tribes or sub-tribes should remain on either side, and minor details of villages and village lands could only be decided on the spot. They then accepted the map, and took it with them to mark upon it the line which they claim.

I next asked the Turkish Commissioners whether their acceptances of orders to demarcate to the north-east, coupled with their consent to our moving to Lakmat-ash-Sh'ub, might be taken to signify that they agreed that the boundary should run north-east from Lakmat-ash-Sh'ub between Mares and the Sh'aibi country. They replied in the negative, again claiming the Sh'aibi country and Jabal Harir as part of the district of Mares.

This they maintained in spite of its being pointed out to them that the Sh'aibi are an offshoot of the Yafa, and in no way connected with the people of Mares. They still denied having received orders to recognize the Yafa as one of the nine tribes under British influence, though they said they expect to receive orders shortly.

Regarding the question of the escort in the event of our moving to the north-east, I suggested the advisability of its being limited to a minimum compatible with safety, and they agreed that about two companies with either party should suffice.

With a view to obtaining necessary information about the country, it was agreed to nominate a sub-Commission to survey the Sh'aibi and neighbouring country, so as to show the lines claimed by either side. Difficulties are foreshadowed by the fact that any definite proposal as to the line which we wish to survey is promptly met by counter-claims on the part of the Turks to push their survey with armed escort far into country which we cannot admit to be in dispute.

I would mention that, in support of their claims in the country east of the Amiri plateau, the Turkish Commissioners again referred to the letter from Amir Ali Mukbil of March 1875, in the translation of which, after the words "Jihaf, Mihrabi, and Ahmadi," is the unfortunate insertion by the late Native Assistant Resident, "country not belonging to the Amir." (See paragraph 4 of inclosure to Aden Resident's letter dated the 1st November, 1901.) It will be seen that the countries to which the insertion refers are all to the west of Dthala, and no mention is made of any country to the east.

I informed the Turkish Commissioners that I had summoned the principal Yafa Sheikh to give information about the country, and with a view to preventing any misunderstanding among the tribesmen, and I suggested that it would be advisable to await his arrival before deciding the date on which the sub-Commission should commence work. They significantly mentioned that they too had a Sheikh to produce. We agreed that it would be premature for the whole Commission to move until we had arrived at a clearer understanding about the Yafa, and that for the present we need only discuss the move of the sub-Commission.

I said that we should need to send a small party to Lakmat-ash-Sh'ub beforehand to select the site of the camp, and I then told the Turkish Commissioners that they must distinctly understand that henceforward, and especially in view of our move to Lakmat-ash-Sh'ub, we would no longer tolerate armed opposition from Arabs either to ourselves or to our foraging parties, and that as we intended to deal summarily with any Arabs who should oppose us, and would no longer accept the excuse that they were acting under Turkish orders, I required a formal declaration from them that they would cease to countenance any such action on the part of Arabs. At first the Turkish Commissioners desired us to agree to confine our own movements to one route between Dthala and Lakmat-ash-Sh'ub, and the visits of our foraging parties to certain specified villages. They even produced a map and made an absurd proposal that to avoid the Shairi country we should only use an extremely circuitous route through almost impracticable mountains. It was obviously impossible to accept any such limitations, and I objected to the whole principle on which Arab opposition to us was supported by Turkish authority, and demanded nothing short of its entire cessation in any place whatsoever. As the Turkish Commissioners quite declined to comply, I requested that my demand should be entered in the proceedings.

In the same connection as the above I remarked that I consider Sheikh Saleh-az-Zendani, the Turkish nominee to the Sheikhship of Jihaf, a dangerous individual, who will certainly continue to foment trouble unless the Turkish officials take steps to remove or restrain him. I compared him in this respect to Muhammad Nasir Mukbil, the Sheikh whose action brought about the affair of Ad Dareja. This reference evoked, as it has before, a retort that the whole action of the British in the Ad Dareja affair is looked upon by the Turks as unprovoked aggression.

The meeting was adjourned.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. A. WAHAB.

No. 322.

Euphrates and Tigris Steam Navigation Company to Foreign Office.—(Received December 10.)

*3, Salters' Hall Court, Cannon Street,
December 9, 1902.*

Sir,

MR. LYNCH has communicated to us your letter of the 19th ultimo relative to the new Road Company.

In reply, I am desired to state that the following steps have already been taken:—An engineer has been sent to examine the roads between Isfahan and Kum, and his reports are now to hand. He has examined three roads, viz., (1) the direct route across the Kohrud Pass; (2) the route to the east, known as the Khafir route, which

diverges from (1) at the village of Murchakhar, and joins it again at Kashan; and (3) the Naizar route, lying to the west, which diverges from (1) at the village of Murchakhar, leaves Kashan some distance to the right (east), and finds its way independently to Kum. His report leaves no doubt that a good deal would be required to be done to this route in order to render it available for wheeled traffic except at very favourable seasons of the year.

It is also clear from his report that there is, and could be, no particular point between Isfahan and Kum where the traffic would be obliged to concentrate, as at a bridge. It is known to you that such points do exist on the Russian road from the Caspian to Tehran, and on the British road from Tehran to Kum. It is therefore essential that the condition upon which we have already insisted—namely, that tolls should be payable not only for the use of the bridges, but for the general use of the roads—should be accepted by the Persian Government, and that a scheme should be formulated for its enforcement. Our engineer recommends that the water-courses on the road should be crossed by means of properly constructed fords, in case it should be desired to adapt the road to wheeled traffic.

As regards the question of caravan as against cart roads, it will be within your recollection that before entering into the scheme, which has now already entailed upon us considerable disbursements, we took pains to make it plain that it formed no part of our intention to construct cart roads at present or in the immediate future. We have always been firmly convinced that the proper alternative lies in Persia between good caravan roads and railways. You will remember that for some little time our proposals hung fire, until a despatch was received from Lord Curzon which bore out the views we had the honour to express. It was only after the acceptance by the Foreign Office of our proposal—namely, to provide caravan roads only—that the scheme commenced to take definite shape.

Under these circumstances we cannot help concluding that there has been some misunderstanding on the part of Sir Arthur Hardinge. It would clearly not be right that the Atabeg-i-Azam should consider—if, indeed, he do consider such to be the case in spite of our interviews with him in London, when our intentions were clearly set forth—that we contemplate the construction of cart roads. On the Isfahan-Kum section, which for the greater extent crosses the plains, we should endeavour to make our improvements to the track of such a nature as to favour wheeled traffic; but in the mountainous districts between Sultanabad and the Karun Valley we consider that a cart road could not be constructed without assistance from Government on a large scale.

For these reasons we respectfully request that Clause 2—one of the essential conditions of the whole scheme—may be obtained from the Persian Government as drafted by our Chairman and Sir Edwyn Dawes.

With regard to the railway, I am desired to refer you to Mr. Lynch's letter of the 13th October, and to request that some assurance may be given to us that the right will fall to the new company under the hypothetical condition mentioned in that letter.

It is obviously not possible to take any further steps towards the realization of the scheme until these essential preliminaries have been obtained. And with regard to the proposed caravan road between Sultanabad and the south, its construction cannot be commenced until the tribes have been dealt with—a task which is beyond the powers of a commercial company. This task can, in our view, most readily be dealt with by a competent Consular officer.

We should feel obliged if you would kindly return to us the document inclosed in Mr. Lynch's letter of the 13th October bearing the signature of Ghaffar Khan.

I have, &c.
(Signed) FRANK BOTTOMLEY,
Acting Secretary.

P.S.—The Report of our engineer bears out the statement contained in Mr. Lynch's letter of the 13th October, that the tolls as levied on the Tehran-Kum road do not provide a net revenue in excess of what would be required to support a good caravan road. They are not nearly sufficient to provide for the upkeep of the existing road and to pay interest on the capital actually put into that road.

F. B.

No. 323.

Hamid Bey to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received December 10.)

LE Chargé d'Affaires de Turquie s'empresse de remercier le Marquis de Lansdowne d'avoir bien voulu faire remettre les opérations projetées par le Commandant Anglais contre les villages de Horelvahlé, et a l'honneur de lui faire part que, de son côté, la Sublime Porte, soucieuse avant tout de remplir ses promesses, a envoyé dans les localités en question des troupes en nombre suffisant, et a pris toutes les dispositions propres à l'arrestation des coupables; mais en même temps Hamid Bey est chargé de représenter à sa Seigneurie qu'il faut nécessairement laisser aux troupes Impériales le temps matériel pour découvrir les criminels et procéder à leur capture, ce qui ne peut s'accomplir dans un délai aussi court que celui fixé par le Commandant Anglais.

Il a pour devoir d'ajouter qu'il importe, en effet, de ne point assigner un terme à une opération que les configurations locales rendent encore plus difficile et de faciliter ainsi la tâche des autorités Ottomanes conformément aux liens d'amitié qui unissent les deux pays.

*Ambassade Impériale de Turquie,
Londres, le 9 Décembre, 1902.*

No. 324.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir N. O'Connor.

(No. 181.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Foreign Office, December 10, 1902.

ADEN delimitation.

With reference to my telegram No. 176 of the 6th December, I repeat to you separately a telegram which I have sent to Fitzmaurice, after consultation with the India Office.

You should instruct him to send to you as soon as possible a report on the present situation, in which he should pay special attention to the question of the occupation by the Amir of Dthali of the evacuated territory, and to that of the starting-point of the delimitation to the north-east.

The procedure laid down in my telegram to him should be followed, and he might telegraph a brief summary of his report.

No. 325.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Mr. Fitzmaurice.

(Telegraphic.) P.

Foreign Office, December 10, 1902.

A COMMISSION will be sent to you appointing you a Commissioner for the Aden delimitation. In rank you will be next after Colonel Wahab, who will be the Senior Commissioner. You will act in accord with him, and report with him jointly on proceedings of Commission through Resident at Aden. When, however, you receive special instructions to do so, you will address to His Majesty's Representative at Constantinople a separate report upon any point on which information may be required by him. All such reports should be shown by you to Colonel Wahab, so that he may have the opportunity of making his observations on them. You will transmit both report and observations to His Majesty's Embassy at Constantinople, and at the same time repeat them to the Resident at Aden for transmission, in the ordinary course, to the India Office.

No. 326.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Hamid Bey.

THE Marquess of Lansdowne presents his compliments to the Turkish Chargé d'Affaires, and has the honour to inform him that the substance of his notes of the 17th and 18th ultimo, calling attention to preparations which the British Commission on the Aden frontier were said to be making for an expedition into the Yaffai country, and to reported proceedings of the Subaihi tribe, was telegraphed to the Resident at Aden with instructions to inquire into the matters complained of.

The Resident has now replied that, as regards the complaints in the first note, he is informed by the British Commissioner that there is absolutely no foundation for the report of the collection of camels for an expedition into the Yaffai country and of the distribution of rifles. The Resident adds that he has not summoned any of the Yaffai Sheikhs to Aden.

With reference to the complaint in Hamid Bey's second note, the Resident states that he has no information of an attack by the Subaihi on the Hakem tribe, that it is improbable that one could have occurred without his knowledge, and that it appears unlikely that the Subaihi could have raided the Hakem while there was a strong Turkish force at Babelmandeb a few miles distant.

The Resident will, however, make further inquiries in regard to this complaint.

Foreign Office, December 10, 1902.

No. 327.

Foreign Office to Admiralty.

Sir,

Foreign Office, December 10, 1902.

I AM directed by the Marquess of Lansdowne to transmit to you a copy of a note from the Turkish Chargé d'Affaires,* complaining that a British ship fired by mistake at a sambouk manned by a Turkish officer and soldiers near Midi, and requesting that instructions may be sent to prevent the repetition of such mistakes.

I am to suggest, for the consideration of the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, that a report should be obtained from the naval authorities concerned upon this incident.

I am, &c.
(Signed) T. H. SANDERSON.

No. 328.

Foreign Office to Mr. G. M. Stewart.

Sir,

Foreign Office, December 10, 1902.

I AM directed by the Marquess of Lansdowne to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 3rd instant, relative to your application for a Railway Concession in Persia.

As regards the Agreement between the Russian and Persian Governments by which the construction of railways in Persia is deferred, I am to refer you to the reply given on behalf of His Majesty's Government to a question in the House of Commons on the subject on the 25th March last.

Copies of the question and answer are inclosed.†

I am, &c.
(Signed) T. H. SANDERSON.

* No. 296.

† Mr. Gibson Bowles, M.P., Parliamentary Questions, March 25, 1902.

No. 329.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received December 11.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Lord George Hamilton, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of inclosures in a letter from the Foreign Secretary to the Government of India, dated the 20th November, relative to the Perso-Afghan frontier dispute.

India Office, December 10, 1902.

Inclosure 1 in No. 329.

Major Benn to Government of India, October 27, 1902.

[Already printed.]

Inclosure 2 in No. 329.

Colonel Yate to Government of India, October 27, 1902.

[Already printed.]

Inclosure 3 in No. 329.

Lieutenant-Colonel Whyte to Government of India, October 3, 1902.

[Already printed.]

Inclosure 4 in No. 329.

Lieutenant-Colonel Whyte to Mr. des Graz, October 1, 1902.

[Already printed.]

Inclosure 5 in No. 329.

Government of India to Mr. des Graz, October 31, 1902.

[Already printed.]

Inclosure 6 in No. 329.

Major Benn to Government of India.

(Confidential.)

Seistan, October 15, 1902.

IN continuation of my telegram of the 15th instant, I have the honour to submit the following Report on certain events which have occurred here in connection with the

Seistan water-supply question since the submission of my Report of the 30th September last.

2. On the 2nd instant the Karguzar of Seistan and the Yamin-i-Nizam left Seistan on a tour along the Afghan frontier, in order to visit the Shahgul bund and verify the reports of the alleged interference of the Afghans with the water supply of Seistan. It was stated that they took labourers with them to destroy the bund, if necessary. Before their return to Seistan reports had reached me from more than one source that, finding a detachment of Afghan troops (who threatened to fire on them) occupying the Shahgul bund, the Karguzar and Yamin-i-Nizam were forced to retire. On this report reaching the city, the Deputy-Governor, it is said, decided to dispatch Sirdar Purdil Khan to the Shahgul bund, with a body of Seistani troops, to destroy it.

As these reports were generally believed to be true in the city, and it was quite probable that they would find their way to Meshed or Tehran in this form, I deemed it advisable to mention them in my telegram of the 8th instant to the Government of India.

3. My Report dated the 30th September shows clearly how the Shahgul bund and channel are able successfully to prevent any of the Helmand water from reaching the Miankangi district. I have also pointed out that in normal years the Helmand water easily passes the Shahgul bund and fills the Pariun river-bed, which is the main channel of supply for the Miankangi district. At the present moment, although Nasratabad and its adjacent villages, as also the villages along the Rud-i-Seistan, are supplied with water, the Miankangi district is absolutely without any, owing to the existence of the Shahgul bund and channel. It is stated here that what the Afghans are striving for is to destroy the Seistan bund at Kohak and to construct a more permanent dam at Shahgul. By this means they hope that the Helmand water would again be permanently diverted into its old bed. The only argument the Afghans use in defence of their present action is that, with the shifting of the Helmand into its new bed, the Miankangi district has become their property, and they therefore deny the Persians' right to cultivate it. These arguments they are able to support by a show of force, which is certainly superior in quality to anything the Seistanis can at present produce.

4. The Karguzar and Yamin-i-Nizam returned from tour on the 8th, and I was able to have an interview with the former shortly after his arrival. I told him of the reports that had reached here regarding his tour. He said that he had found no Afghan troops whatever at the Shahgul bund; but that, after satisfying himself that no water was flowing into the Pariun on account of the dam and Afghan channel at that place, the Yamin-i-Nizam had written to the Akhundzada of Chakansur to allow the water to pass. He had received a reply from the Akhundzada at Deh Dost Muhammad declining the Yamin's invitation to meet and discuss the water question and refusing to allow the water to pass the Shahgul bund. The Karguzar and Yamin then continued their tour along the frontier as far as Takht-i-Shah. He said that, as far as he was aware, there was no intention of sending Sirdar Purdil Khan out to destroy the Shahgul bund; but he added that the Seistanis, in retaliation, intended to open a disused canal near Milak leading into Persian territory which would draw off whatever water entered the old bed of the Helmand by the Afghan channel at Shahgul.

The Karguzar anticipated that, if the Seistanis did this, disturbances between themselves and the Afghans would result. I told him that if he thought any intervention on my part—in the same way as Colonel Trench had intervened last year—between themselves and the Afghans, would do any good, I was at the disposal of the local Government and would use my good offices with the Akhundzada to try and bring about some temporary settlement. He said he would do his best to restrain the Seistanis, and proposed meanwhile to consult with the Deputy Governor and the Yamin-i-Nizam on the subject. His proposals to seek my intervention do not appear to have been accepted; for the Seistanis are at present engaged in digging the disused channel mentioned above. They are also said to be preparing another channel close to and above the Shahgul bund, which will cut off a bend in the river and conduct the main Helmand stream into the Pariun or Dashak river bed. In a conversation with the Yamin-i-Nizam he told me it was hoped that the digging of these channels would act as a lever on the Afghans and force them to allow the water to pass the Shahgul bund. It is, however, more likely—considering the present strained condition of affairs—that the Afghans will oppose the opening of the mouth of these channels as they approach the Helmand river-bed.

If, however, the Afghans do not oppose this work, they have still the whip hand; for a new channel at which they have been working for a considerable time, with, it is said, some hundreds of labourers, is now approaching completion at a point south of the

Seistan bund at Kohak, which, from the accounts the Karguzar has given me, corresponds exactly to point "B" marked on the Map submitted with my Report of the 20th September. This canal is stated to be 18 feet wide, and to extend at present through the village of Khaogah as far as Jaroki, which is situated a short distance east of Milak. If this canal, the bed of which is said to be lower than the main bed of the Helmand, is opened by the Afghans, it will—considering the present low state of that river—seriously reduce, if it does not entirely stop, the water supply which reaches the city, its adjacent villages, and the district to the south of Nasratabad, by the Rud-i-Seistan. Unless the Helmand comes down in much greater volume than at present, it would not be surprising to find, not only the Miankangi district, but the capital of Seistan, again devoid of water.

The attitude of the Afghans has been, and still is, most unfriendly; and their present action, after a period of drought, is likely to be attended with such serious consequences as the stoppage of all cultivation, not only in the most fertile and prosperous district of Seistan, but in Seistan itself.

5. A copy of this Report is under dispatch to His Britannic Majesty's Consul-General for Khorasan and Seistan, and to the Honourable the Agent to the Governor-General in Baluchistan.

Inclosure 7 in No. 329.

Mr. des Graz to Government of India, November 1, 1902.

[Already printed.]

Inclosure 8 in No. 329.

Major Benn to Government of India.

(Confidential.)

(Telegraphic.)

Seistan, October 23 (Nushki, November 3), 1902.

HAVE visited Takht-i-Shah frontier and inspected new Persian channel at Poozahi Jangjah, and can confirm information given in my last telegram with following modifications. Jangjah channel was on point completion, 18 feet wide, 18 deep, one and a quarter of a mile long, northern mouth just below Shahgul bund, not at Lukhshakh. One thousand unarmed labourers were working under Miankangi Headman who had small escorts. I saw no Afghan troops on opposite bank. As Afghans can nullify effect of Jangjah channel by opening their own above Seistan bund referred to in last telegram, it is unlikely they will oppose Persians, but general feeling is that new troops reported by Whyte as having left Meshed will overawe Afghans and prevent their digging counter-channels. Persians have abandoned work on channel near Milak reported in my 337 as under construction. Posted Meshed; addressed Foreign; repeated Agent, Governor-General, Quetta.

Inclosure 9 in No. 329.

British Agent at Cabul to Government of India.

(Translation.)

(After compliments.)

October 27, 1902.

THE Foreign Secretary's telegram, dated the 21st instant, reached me on the 24th instant, at 7 P.M., through the Political Agent, Khyber. The following morning, being Saturday, was the Ameer's public Durbar day. After the close of the Durbar, I requested His Highness the Ameer, under instructions of the Government, to grant me a special audience. His Highness appointed Sunday, the 26th instant, at 12 noon, for my special visit.

I waited on His Highness the Ameer at the appointed hour, and I spoke to His Highness about his Excellency's letter, dated the 31st July last, and His Highness said that a suitable reply to the letter was dispatched on Thursday, the 13th Rajab 1320 H., corresponding to the 16th instant; and His Highness also told me

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verbally that he would send to me, in writing, the date of the letter sent to his Excellency the Viceroy. The date of the letter, written in a note by Shaghasi Abdul Kuddus Khan, reached me at 3 P.M. (Sunday). I beg to send a true copy of the note for your information.

Inclosure 10 in No. 329.

Note written by Shaghasi to British Agent at Cabul.

(Translation.)

(After compliments.)

23 Rajab, 1320 H. (October 26, 1902).

I BEG to inform you that I have written this letter under the order of His Highness the Ameer, intimating that, in regard to the reply of the letter on the subject of the Naizar, about which you have received a telegraphic order from his Excellency the Viceroy, and in regard to which you reminded His Highness the Ameer, His Highness, in reply to you, has directed me to inform you that inquiries having been made of the officials in waiting, it has been found that His Highness' reply was sent from the Secretariat on Thursday, the 13th Rajab, 1320 H., corresponding to the 16th instant.

I have, therefore, written this for your information.

Inclosure 11 in No. 329.

Extract from Diary, No. 12, of Major Benn, for period from September 16 to 30, 1902.

[Already printed.]

Inclosure 12 in No. 329.

Major Benn to Government of India.

(Telegraphic.)

Seistan, November 2 (Nushki, November 10), 1902.

YOUR telegram No. 2848 F.

Helmand having risen, is reported flowing both in old bed, via Afghan channel at Shahgul, and in Pariun, via new Persian channel at Poozah Jangjah. Rain has also fallen. This should temporarily solve water difficulty, and unless Afghans reopen question by digging fresh channels, no reason why *status quo* should not continue. Afghan canal above Seistan bund via Khaogah to Jaroki now reported only half finished, requiring about month further work. My diary of 31st August, paragraph 5, reported Akhundzada and Governor of Kila-i-Fath at variance. Latter recently, under Cabul orders, extended limits of his district into Akhundzada's territory some way north of Khaogah, which had been Akhundzada's property. Akhundzada then dug Kushk Jaroki channel, which divides Khaogah villages, and which, it is generally admitted, must inundate and destroy Khaogah when Helmand is in flood. By representing construction of this canal as best counter-stroke to Persian encroachments, Akhundzada received Cabul approval to work, which also dealt blow against his Kila-i-Fath rival. Latter unlikely permit opening of Kushk Jaroki Canal. New aspect of situation should benefit Seistan, and internal dissension of Afghan Governors is perhaps good guarantee of maintenance of *status quo*, but Akhundzada is persistent in claiming Miankangi district, and may resent its cultivation by Persians. I am trying arrange visit Akhundzada in course few days.

Addressed Foreign; repeated Agent, Governor-General, Quetta; posted Meshed.

Inclosure 13 in No. 329.

Mr. des Graz to Government of India, November 10, 1902.

[Already printed.]

Inclosure 14 in No. 329.

Government of India to Major McMahon.

(Telegraphic.)

Simla, November 14, 1902.

A REPLY is being prepared to Ameer's last communication, and you will not start until you receive further orders. Meanwhile, you should complete your preparations and be ready to start at once when told to do so.

Inclosure 15 in No. 329.

Government of India to Mr. des Graz, November 14, 1902.

[Already printed.]

Inclosure 16 in No. 329.

Government of India to Major McMahon.

(Telegraphic.)

Simla, November 15, 1902.

BENN'S telegram, 18th October.

Persian Government have been informed that their proceedings are unjustifiable and calculated to aggravate a dispute referred to us by them for adjustment. They are warned not to alter *status quo*, and of their responsibility for the consequences of assembling armed force and labourers, and are assured that His Majesty's Government will do all in their power to accelerate arrival of the Arbitrator.

Please inform Benn.

Inclosure 17 in No. 329.

Major McMahon to Government of India.

(Telegraphic.)

Quetta, November 15, 1902.

YOUR telegram of 14th.

Preparations rapidly approaching completion have at last overcome difficulties about camels, but they cannot all reach Quetta before the 8th December. Am ordering all component units of Mission to join Quetta by the 1st December.

Inclosure 18 in No. 329.

Extract from the Diary of the Cabul Agency for the week ending November 5, 1902.

9. Three years previously the Shah of Persia appointed some surveyors to Seistan in order to find out within what territory Kuch lay. The Surveying Commission, after inquiry of every detail, reported to the Shah that Kuch was in that part of Seistan which lay within the territory of the God-granted Government. The Shah on hearing of this got much pleased, and addressing those present in the Durbar, said, "Thank God, Kuch is not in my territory, for it is a place which will become the field of battle between the Russians and the British." During Ameer Sher Ali's time a Joint Commission from Persia and Afghanistan and the British Government fixed the Helmand as the boundary-line. Recently the Helmand has changed its course, and has gone beyond Afghanistan and entered Persian territory. Seven months previously the frontier officers, who were on the spot on the part of Afghanistan, informed the Ameer of this change. The present Ameer wished to get the frontier disputes settled between himself and the Shah without the intervention of the British Government, and His Highness has, therefore

appointed his own officers, so that they may get the matter settled after a discussion with the Persian officers. The Persian officers gave a reply that they would pay no attention to the Afghan officers' statement unless it came through an English Commission. I shall find out something more on the subject, and let you know the result.

Inclosure 19 in No. 329.

Major Benn to Government of India.

(Confidential.)

Seistan, October 29, 1902.

IN continuation of former correspondence on this subject ending with my telegram of the 26th October last, I have the honour to submit the following Report on a visit paid by me to the new Persian Canal at Poozah Jang Jah and on the Seistan-Afghan water question as it stands at present.

2. A rough map to illustrate this Report is attached herewith.

3. Former reports have shown that, owing to the existence of the Afghan bund and channel at Shahgul ("X Y" on map), the Helmand water was unable to reach the Pariun, its present legitimate bed and the main source of irrigation for the Miankangi district.

The Persian authorities had asked the Afghan Governor of Chikansur to allow the water to pass the bund, but the latter had refused stating that he claimed the Miankangi district as Afghan territory.

The Seistan authorities then decided to dig a channel above the Shahgul bund which would divert the water into the Pariun by cutting off a bend in the river at this point. This channel ("A B" on the map), has now been completed. It takes off from the main stream at a point 1 mile above the Shahgul bund called Poozah Jang Jah, and joins the Pariun a quarter of a mile below that bund. When I visited this canal on the 23rd October, the day before it was opened, I found about 1,000 labourers under the superintendence of the three chief Katkhudas of the Miankangi district, working at the canal, which was then $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles long, 18 feet wide, and 18 feet deep. This somewhat formidable piece of work had been finished in fourteen days. Each Katkhuda had a small escort of local men with him.

The Katkhudas appeared to regard the work as a waste of time and labour; for they said that the Afghans would either open an old channel a little further up-stream ("C D" on map) or else the Helmand itself would come down in flood and destroy the Shahgul bund. In any case they thought the Afghans would open their larger canal at Kushik ("E F" on map), which takes off from the main river above the Seistan (Kohak) bund and runs north to Jaroki.

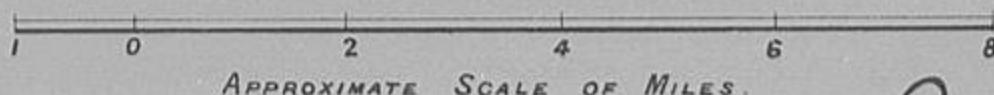
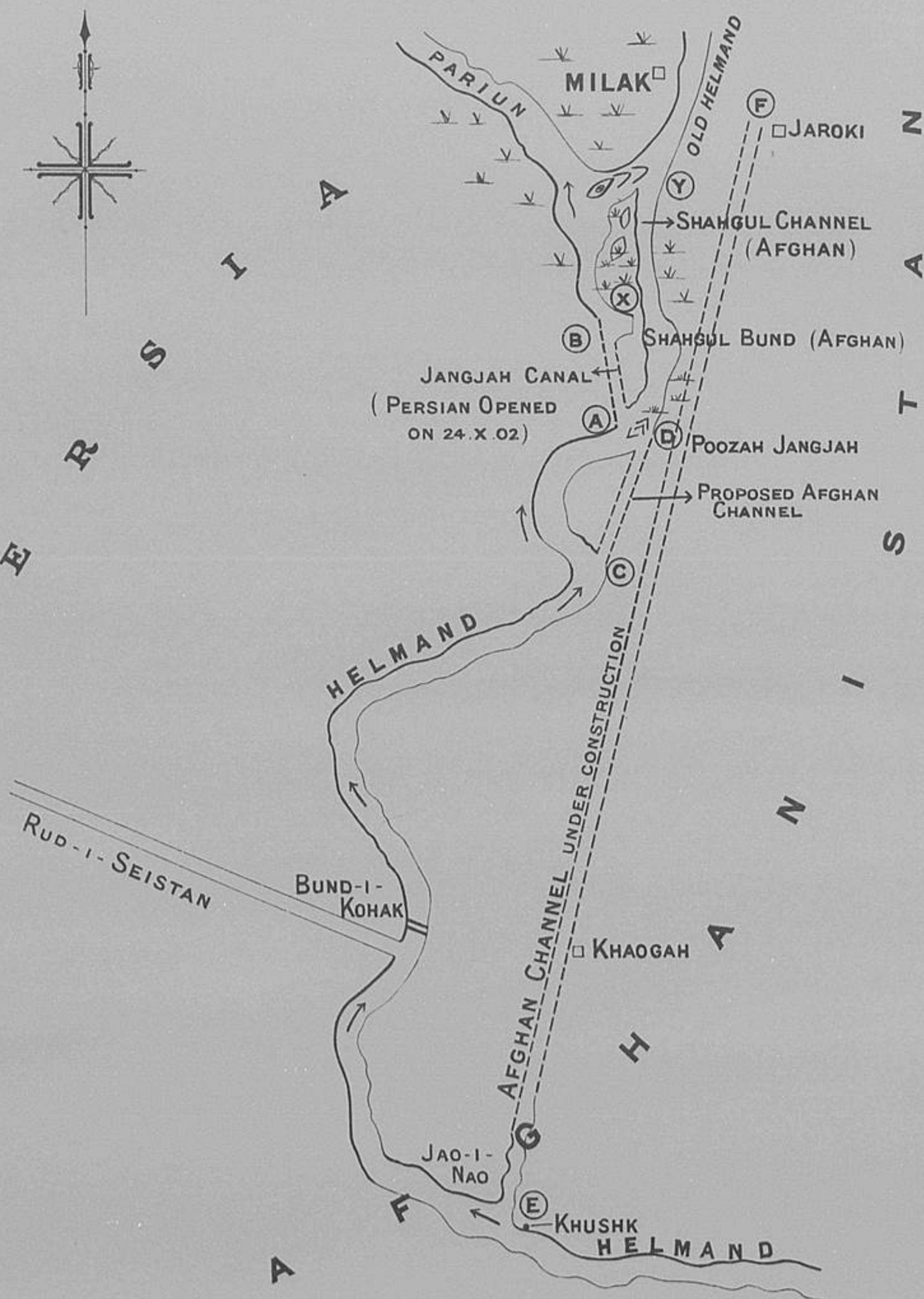
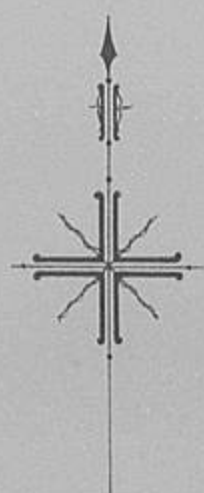
4. The Persian channel at Jang Jah was opened on the 24th October. The Akhunzada of Chikansur, with some forty men, personally watched the operations, but offered no opposition.

The Helmand water, from the latest reports, is now gradually filling the Pariun river bed by means of the new channel, and at the same time the Helmand has suddenly increased in volume. The Karguzar, during a visit on the 27th October, informed me that he hoped the water would now reach both the Pariun and the old bed of the Helmand. He said that in view of the fact that the Helmand had risen and that the city and districts fed by the Rud-i-Seistan, now had a good supply of water, orders would be given to partially open the Kohak bund in order that an ample supply might reach the main stream below the bund and that the Afghans might thus get a fair share.

A temporary solution of the water question would, therefore, appear to have been reached which should, for the present, satisfy both parties. It remains, however, to be seen whether the Afghans will not again reopen the question either by drawing off the water into the old Helmand bed via the channel marked in the attached map at "C D" or by opening their larger work above the Kohak bund at "E F."

The general feeling appears to be that the presence of the new troops, who are expected here at once for duty on the Seistan-Afghan border, and whose dispatch to Seistan has already been reported by His Britannic Majesty's Consul-General at Meshed, will deter the Afghans from making any further encroachments.

5. I have referred in paragraph 4 of my Report dated the 15th October to two channels which it was said the Seistanis proposed digging—one near Milak and another "close and above the Shahgul bund" (now known as the Poozah Jang Jah channel).



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MAJOR.

H.B.M.'s Consul for Seistan
& Kain.

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Owing possibly to the representations of the Karguzar, who, as already reported, feared disturbances if the Milak channel, as being in territory disputed by the Afghans, was opened, orders were issued to discontinue its construction in favour of the Jang Jah channel, which is in undisputed territory.

6. I have reported that the Yamin-i-Nizam, who is the Agent of the Persian Government for the Seistan-Afghan frontier, was stated to be in the habit of consulting the Russian Consul on matters connected with the Seistan-Afghan water dispute. If we may judge by the frequent reports that have reached me from more than one source there is little doubt that this is so. In conversation, therefore, with the Karguzar, who seems inclined to be friendly to us, and who is an intimate friend of the Yamin-i-Nizam, I have lately impressed on him that should the Local Government be in need of advice on account of difficulties with the Afghan authorities they would be justified in referring to me in the matter. I added that I thought in view of the Treaty on this subject they would not seek advice elsewhere.

On the 28th October, whether as a result of a hint from the Karguzar or not I am unable to say; the Yamin-i-Nizam paid me a visit, when he made a point of giving me an account of the situation, and of relating to me the action he had taken in the matter. He told me that he had sent the Akhundzada of Chikansur an ultimatum warning him that, unless the Shahgul bund was destroyed in forty-eight hours or the water allowed to pass into the Pariun, the Persians would construct a channel above the Shahgul bund which would, in all probability, draw off the water from the Helmand bed, and prevent it reaching the Shahgul channel. The Akhundzada replied refusing to allow the water to pass the Shahgul bund, and claiming the Miankangi district. The Yamin then ordered the Poozah Jang Jah channel to be dug.

With regard to the larger Afghan channel above the Kohak bund at Kushk the Yamin said he did not regard it seriously, as the reports regarding it were exaggerated, and were purposely spread by the Akhundzada with the object of intimidating the Seistanis and of gaining the approbation of the Cabul Government. He thought that before the Afghans could complete any channel the Helmand, which was now beginning to rise, would itself solve the problem, and that there would soon be ample water for both sides.

The Persians, he said, were quite prepared to discuss the matter in an amicable way with the Afghans, but that the Akhundzada, whom he described as being in his dotage, was an impossible man to deal with.

7. A copy of this Report is under dispatch to the Honourable the Agent to the Governor-General in Baluchistan and to His Britannic Majesty's Consul-General at Meshed.

Inclosure 20 in No. 329.

Map.

No. 330.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir A. Hardinge.

(No. 66.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Foreign Office, December 11, 1902.

WITH reference to your telegram No. 75 of the 1st December, and to my telegram No. 64 of the 3rd December, relative to the Perso-Afghan frontier, on the 9th December the Persian Minister showed me a telegram from the Atabeg-i-Azam, in which he stated that he had reported to the Shah the rise in the waters of the Helmund, and that His Imperial Majesty had said that in the circumstances the necessity for sending a Commissioner no longer existed.

The Minister added that he had correctly reported to his Government the observation which I had made to him, and that the conclusion that arbitration would no longer be required must have been drawn from it by the Shah and the Grand Vizier.

No. 331.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir A. Hardinge.

(No. 107.)

Sir,

Foreign Office, December 11, 1902.

I HAVE received Mr. Erskine's despatch No. 154 of the 8th ultimo, informing me of the representations which he and Mr. des Graz had made to the Persian Government as to the inadvisability of increasing the number of troops in Seistan while the dispute with Afghanistan is still unsettled, and the replies received from the Grand Vizier and the Mushir-ed-Dowleh.

I approve the action which has been taken in this matter as reported in Mr. Erskine's despatch.

I am, &c.
(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

No. 332.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir A. Hardinge.

(No. 108.)

Sir,

Foreign Office, December 11, 1902.

I DULY received Mr. Erskine's despatch No. 152 of the 3rd ultimo, reporting the communications which passed between him and the Persian Government in regard to the proposal of the Persian Customs Department to collect at Mohammerah all duties on goods destined for ports on the Karun.

Mr. Erskine's action in this matter, as reported in his despatch, is approved.

I am, &c.
(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

No. 333.

Foreign Office to India Office.

(Confidential.)

Sir,

Foreign Office, December 11, 1902.

WITH reference to your letter of the 8th August and previous correspondence, I am directed by the Marquess of Lansdowne to transmit to you the decypher of a telegram from His Majesty's Minister at Tehran,* reporting that the Russian Government have decided to open a branch of the Russian Bank in Seistan, and suggesting that it would be advisable that the Imperial Bank of Persia should also establish a branch there.

I am to inquire whether the Secretary of State for India would be prepared to consider whether any assistance could be given from Indian funds towards the establishment of a branch of the Imperial Bank in Seistan in connection with the Nushiki trade route.

I am, &c.
(Signed) T. H. SANDERSON.

No. 334.

Humid Bey to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received December 12.)

Le Chargé d'Affaires de Turquie présente ses compliments au Marquis de Lansdowne et a l'honneur d'informer sa Seigneurie que de nouveaux ordres télégraphiques ont été donnés par la Sublime Porte au Vali intérimaire du Yémen pour la prompte arrestation des corsaires et leur punition immédiate.

*Ambassade Impériale de Turquie, Londres,
le 11 Décembre, 1902.*

No. 335.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received December 12.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Lord George Hamilton, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of a telegram to the Resident, Aden, dated the 8th December, relative to the Aden delimitation.

India Office, December 11, 1902.

Inclosure in No. 335.

Lord G. Hamilton to Resident, Aden.

(Telegraphic.) P.

India Office, December 8, 1902.

A COMPLAINT has been received from the Turkish Chargé d'Affaires that the British Commission has established itself at Lakmat-ash-Shab—see your telegrams of the 16th and 30th November. It is also stated that a British detachment has endeavoured to proceed to Djebel-i-Hidjaf by way of a village called Afir, which is alleged to be in disputed territory. Please send a report on both points.

No. 336.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received December 12.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Lord George Hamilton, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of a telegram from the Viceroy, dated the 11th December, relative to the renewal of hostilities between Ibn Rashid and Abdul Aziz-bin-Saoud.

India Office, December 11, 1902.

Inclosure in No. 336.

Government of India to Lord G. Hamilton.

(Telegraphic.) P.

December 11, 1902.

IT is reported that, after severe fighting, Ibn Rashid has been defeated by Bin Saoud at Dillum, and has fled to Gharsil, with a loss of his camp and baggage, and of 250 killed, including two important Sheikhs. Report was received from Sheikh Mubarek on (18th November) through Resident, Persian Gulf, and Assistant Political Agent at Bahrein, on the 17th November.

No. 337.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received December 12.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Lord George Hamilton, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of a telegram from the Resident, Aden, dated the 9th December, relative to the Aden delimitation.

India Office, December 11, 1902.

Inclosure in No. 337.

Resident, Aden, to Government of Bombay.

(Telegraphic.) P.

December 9, 1902.

WITH reference to the telegram of the 2nd December from the Secretary of State, which was communicated to me in Bombay Government's telegram of the 7th instant; the proposal contained in my telegram of the 16th November was contingent on the movement of the British Commission to the north-east. This, I fear, is at present impracticable. It will no doubt be noted by His Majesty's Government that the Turkish Government have made the first step necessary—namely, a move to Lakhmat-ash-shuab—a subject of complaint. As to the prospect of demarcation to the north-east, Wahab has been asked to report; in the meantime I have given orders for a movable column to be held (? ready). Its strength (?) will be about 400 infantry with four or six (? guns), and some mounted men. All the sappers are on the road, engaged in the construction of the telegraph. With regard to reinforcements, in my opinion, and subject to anything that Wahab may say, one battalion of native infantry will not be sufficient, if a display of force be an object distinct from the occupation of Dthali, during [?] movement of the Commission on the Yaffai border. At least half-a-battalion of British infantry and a native mountain battery should, I think, be sent in addition. I hope that permission may be accorded me to commence the purchase of camels without delay. There is no available barrack accommodation for additional troops, but for the next two months the point is of little consequence.

No. 338.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received December 12.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Lord George Hamilton, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of a telegram from the Resident, Aden, dated the 11th December, relative to the Aden delimitation.

India Office, December 11, 1902.

Inclosure in No. 338.

Resident, Aden, to Lord G. Hamilton.

(Telegraphic.) P.

December 11, 1902.

I AM asking Colonel Wahab to furnish the report requested in your telegram of the 8th December regarding the Turkish complaints as to the movements of the British Commission. Colonel Wahab, however, was certainly at Dthali on the 5th December, and there was no indication in his letters that he had any intention of moving. I am not repeating to the Ambassador at Constantinople telegrams replying to complaints made by the Turkish Chargé d'Affaires. Is this procedure correct?

No. 339.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received December 12.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Lord George Hamilton, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of two telegrams to the Viceroy, dated the 11th December, relative to the Aden delimitation.

Paraphrases will follow.

India Office, December 12, 1902.

Inclosure 1 in No. 339.

Lord G. Hamilton to Government of India.

(Telegraphic.) P.

India Office, December 11, 1902.

THE Foreign Office have now issued a commission to Mr. Fitzmaurice for the Aden frontier delimitation, in the same terms as that sent to Colonel Wahab. The latter will take precedence of Fitzmaurice in virtue of seniority. But, in view of Fitzmaurice's experience in dealing with Turkish authorities, Lord Lansdowne has suggested that the actual discussion with the Turkish Commissioners should, as far as possible, be left in his hands. With this view I concur. The following instructions to Fitzmaurice are hereby sent by the Foreign Office:—

"A commission will be sent to you appointing you Commissioner for delimitation. You will rank next after Colonel Wahab. With respect to the proceedings of the Commission you will act in accord with the Senior Commissioner, and will report jointly with him through the Aden Resident. On receipt of special instructions, however, you will address to Constantinople a separate report on any point on which His Majesty's Representative requires information. In order to afford Colonel Wahab an opportunity for observations you will show all such reports to him. You should send to the Embassy both the report and the observations, repeating them at the same time to the Aden Resident, in order that they may be transmitted, in the ordinary course, to the India Office. With regard to the separate reports which Mr. Fitzmaurice is to furnish at Sir N. O'Connor's request, Sir N. O'Connor will require Mr. Fitzmaurice to furnish a report of this character on the general situation as speedily as possible, in which he will be asked to pay special attention to the question of the Amir of Dthali's occupation of the evacuated territory, and the point from which a start should be made with the delimitation to the north-east."

The foregoing should be repeated to the Aden Resident, who should convey to Mr. Fitzmaurice the instructions of the Foreign Office. He should also inform Colonel Wahab of the arrangement made, and assure him that the ability and patience he has shown are highly appreciated both by Lord Lansdowne and myself, that we have full confidence in the future conduct by him of the very difficult circumstances with which he has had to deal, that appointment of Fitzmaurice will help O'Connor to apply necessary pressure to make the Porte send instructions to the Turkish Commissioners in such a form as to secure their obedience, and that this is our reason for adding Fitzmaurice to the Commission.

Inclosure 2 in No. 339.

Lord G. Hamilton to Government of India.

(Telegraphic.) P.

India Office, December 11, 1902.

SIR N. O'CONOR has made the necessary explanations to the Porte referred to in my telegram of the 2nd December, as to our object in strengthening the escort at Dthali. The Resident, Aden, may be instructed to send to Dthali 400 additional troops, with four guns, as proposed in your telegram of the 24th November, as soon after the arrival of Mr. Fitzmaurice as he thinks expedient. As to the telegram from Resident, Aden, dated the 9th December, pending Mr. Fitzmaurice's arrival I think no further steps need be taken.

In my separate telegram of to-day I have dealt with the position on commission of Mr. Fitzmaurice.

No. 340.

Sir N. O'Connor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received December 12.)

(No. 139.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Constantinople, December 12, 1902.

TELEGRAM from Resident, Aden, dated the 10th December.

I telegraphed to Fitzmaurice, through Resident, suggesting that our Commissioners should insist on their Ottoman colleagues proceeding with them straight to Lakmat-

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es-Shub and commencing the frontier delimitation north-eastward. I pressed Porte at the same time to send instructions in the above sense to their Commission, and I have now been informed by Tewfik Pasha that these orders have been sent.

Fitzmaurice informed.

No. 341.

Sir N. O'Connor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received December 12.)

(No. 140.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Constantinople, December 12, 1902.

MY immediately preceding telegram.

If the Turkish and British Commissioners could limit their respective escorts to at most 100, but preferably 50, I think it would facilitate matters.

I do not know the exact local conditions, so I make the suggestion with diffidence: the disposition of the Yaffai, however, seems to be friendly.

No. 342.

Sir N. O'Connor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received December 13.)

(No. 199. Commercial.)

My Lord,

Constantinople, December 4, 1902.

IN my despatch No. 194, Commercial, of the 29th ultimo, I had the honour to inform your Lordship that the Ottoman Government had issued a Circular to the Customs authorities in Turkey stating the Customs régime which will be applicable when the Turco-Persian Commercial Agreement of the 5th September last comes into force.

I now inclose, for your Lordship's consideration, notes by Mr. Weakley, Commercial Attaché to this Embassy, upon Sir A. Hardinge's Memorandum of the 7th October, a copy of which was transmitted to me in your Lordship's despatch No. 130, Commercial, of the 27th of that month. I agree in general with the view of the case taken by Mr. Weakley, but I consider it exceedingly improbable that the Ottoman Government could be persuaded to reject the Russo-Persian Tariff, when eventually presented for acceptance as most-favoured-nation treatment. I understand that this Tariff is considered by the Porte to be distinctly favourable to Turkish trade, and is expected to lead to a considerable development of the export trade from Turkey to Persia.

Notwithstanding the willingness expressed by the Grand Vizier, as reported to your Lordship in my despatch No. 145, Commercial, of the 19th September last, to make what reparation might be possible for having concluded the Agreement with the Persian Government without first consulting this Embassy according to his Highness' promise, I have not much confidence in the success of an application which would require that Turkey, merely on grounds of general political community of interests, should take a line of action which would be detrimental to her commerce in order to further British and Indian trade interests in Persia. Still less feasible does it appear to ask the Porte to enforce this demand by threatening to denounce the whole of the Erzeroum Treaties.

I have, &c.

(Signed) N. R. O'CONNOR.

Inclosure in No. 342.

Notes on Sir A. Hardinge's Memorandum of October 7, 1902, respecting the Turco-Persian Commercial Agreement.

IT will be necessary first to explain that the statement that "the Convention takes the place of all former Treaties, all of which are to be considered null and void while this arrangement is in force," and which appears in the Memorandum inclosed in the despatch No. 141, Commercial, of the 17th ultimo to the Foreign Office, was based on information I had obtained from Hakki Bey, Conseiller Légiste of the Sublime Porte. The correctness of the statement is not borne out by the text of the note of the 5th ultimo, and which was addressed to the Sublime Porte by the Persian Embassy, copy of which was obtained by the Ambassador a few days after the Memorandum was written.

Although Article XIV of the Treaty of 1875 states that: "Outside the tenour of the thirteen preceding Articles, the subjects of the exalted Government of Persia resident in the Ottoman dominions, and Ottoman subjects who may be in the guarded realms of Persia, shall enjoy the same privileges and favours as are enjoyed by the subjects of the most favoured foreign nations," it is, I venture to think, doubtful whether the most-favoured-nation treatment in Customs matters was ever meant to be included within the operation of this Article.

In support of this view, it will be necessary to refer to the preamble of the Treaty itself, which distinctly sets forth that:—

"The Convention arranged and concluded on the 21st Zil Qa'da, 1292, between the exalted Persian Legation and the Ottoman Ministry for Foreign Affairs, with the condition of the continuance and observation of the execution of the stipulations of the Treaties concluded and existing between the two exalted Governments, Persian and Ottoman, as herebefore: and in like manner with the condition of the continued observance of the stipulations of the Agreements that have been ratified and put in force."

The questions dealt with in the Articles of the 1875 Treaty are, with perhaps one or two exceptions, entirely independent of those mentioned in the two Treaties of Erzeroum, and further, the fact of the question of customs duties not being mentioned, the Treaty of 1875 can only, I submit, be regarded as a Supplementary Convention to the Treaties of 1823 and 1847, and therefore the most-favoured-nation treatment mentioned in the Article XIV may be taken to affect only such questions as might arise outside those specified in these Treaties. The Convention just concluded brings the treatment of Customs matters only within the provisions of Article XIV of the 1875 Treaty—the export duties of 12 per cent. and the import duty of 4 per cent. plus the "droit additionnel" of 2 per cent. are abolished, and Turkey will now obtain in Persia the same treatment which foreign Powers enjoy through the Turkomanchai Treaty, and will, eventually, come equally under the working of the new Russo-Persian Tariff, when that is put in force. I cannot but think that Turkey had, at no time since the conclusion of the Erzeroum Treaties, a distinct right to claim any special customs treatment other than that provided in those Treaties.

Should the new Russo-Persian Tariff be unacceptable to Turkey, the Customs Agreement recently concluded can be denounced, and the revival of the Customs provisions of the Erzeroum Treaties might be insisted upon. What advantage Turkey could hope to derive from the adoption of such a course is not very apparent, since the duty to be levied on imports, and mentioned in the Treaty of 1823, is not a clearly defined one, and is subject to any rate of increase which the Persian Government might at any time think fit to impose. Section 3 of Article II (Treaty of 1823) states:—

"Persian merchants and subjects shall pay the same rate of customs as those of the Ottoman Government. The duties are only to be exacted once, and they shall be at a computation of 4 piastres to 100 on the value of the merchandise. Teskeres shall be given, and whilst the goods remain in the possession of the first importers, and are not disposed of to other persons, no further duties are to be demanded."

From the tenour of the latter part of this Article it is evident that Persia as well as Turkey reserved to themselves the right of imposing further dues on imports besides the specified customs duty of 4 per cent., and it is presumably on the strength of the free exercise of this right that the "droit additionnel" of 2 per cent. over and above the customs duty has been imposed by Persia, and afterwards by Turkey, on all imports from either country.

This import duty of 4 per cent. and the "droit additionnel," limited to 2 per cent., has been the charge hitherto made on Turkish goods entering Persia, whilst merchandise from other countries has paid the 5 per cent. import duty according to the stipulations of the Turkomanchai Treaty. Should Turkey object to the new Russo-Persian Tariff when it is applied generally, and, in denouncing the new Customs Agreement, wish to revert to the treatment of the Erzeroum Treaties, it is quite possible to conceive that Persia, whilst consenting to such an arrangement, would impose the regular duty of 4 per cent., but would, at the same time, take care to raise the "droit additionnel" to a rate which would bring the total duty to the level of the rate fixed by the Russo-Persian Tariff. A similar increase would be made in the duties by Turkey, and a serious falling-off in the export trade of Persia with Turkey would in all probability be the result. This export trade is estimated to be of the annual value of 500,000*l.*, the greater part of which consists of carpets and wool passing in transit through Turkey to Europe, and the only possible effect of an increase in the Turkish dues would be to divert this trade into other and new channels.

The demand, therefore, of the Customs régime of the Erzeroum Treaties would not necessarily guarantee the application of the present import duty of 6 per cent., nor does it

seem to offer the necessary elements for bringing pressure to bear on the Persian Government for the revision, in consultation with the Porte, of the Russo-Persian Tariff. The only efficient pressure, it would appear, which Turkey could exercise for gaining her point would be the denunciation, or rather the threat to denounce, the two Treaties of Erzeroum and the Treaty of 1875, which concern the status of Persian subjects resident in Turkey, pilgrims, &c.

I am therefore unable, under such circumstances, to see how we could benefit by the Customs provisions of the Erzeroum Treaties, whether their revival be demanded by Turkey or by Egypt. On the other hand, we know that the legal advisers of the Porte have expressed opinions rather favourable than otherwise regarding the new Russo-Persian Tariff, and consider that under its provisions the export trade between Turkey and Persia will develop considerably; would the Porte, therefore, when the occasion arose, be willing to demand the revival of the present Customs régime of the Erzeroum Treaties, and, in case of refusal, be prepared to go so far as to threaten the denunciation of those Treaties in order to obtain her object?

No. 343.

Sir N. O'Connor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received December 15.)

(No. 539.)

My Lord,

Constantinople, December 9, 1902.

WITH reference to the latter part of my telegram No. 138 of the 7th instant, I have the honour to report that I explained to Tewfik Pasha yesterday how the Emir of Dthali's Sheikh at Lakmat-es-Salah had been ejected by a Turkish armed force of 400 men, and his rival, a Turkish partisan, installed in his place. I did my best to convince his Excellency that proceedings of this sort were entirely contrary to the understanding between our two Governments to maintain, pending further inquiries, the *status quo* existing when the delimitation was proposed, and I urged that it fell upon the Ottoman authorities to rectify their mistake and to find means of persuading their nominee to retire.

The Minister replied that when I spoke to him on this subject some days previously he had consulted the Grand Vizier, who, while inclined to admit the justice of my demands, yet observed that I had insisted upon the Turkish troops withdrawing from Lakmat-es-Salah, and that it was difficult, if not impossible, for the Ottoman authorities to compel the present Sheikh to withdraw without sending an armed force into the country for that purpose, and to this his Highness presumed I would not agree. I said that I did not think it would be necessary to send a military force, but that it was their duty to get him out, and that I had little doubt that if they told him that they could not any longer support him, in consequence of the arrangement they had come to with His Majesty's Government, he would probably not attempt to remain.

The Minister thought that whether he withdrew or not would depend entirely upon the degree of local support on which he could count. He would, however, report my remarks to the Grand Vizier and see what could be done.

We had then some conversation about the meetings of the Commissioners, and we agreed in thinking that if they did not make more progress, we should neither of us live to see the termination of their labours.

Tewfik Pasha said he had told the Grand Vizier some time since that it was absurd for them to refer small and petty questions to their respective Governments, that he for his part was unable to deal with such matters, and that he thought the Delegates should be instructed to proceed with the demarcation of the frontier, and only to reserve a few of the main questions for decision between the Central Governments. I expressed my satisfaction at hearing his Excellency use this language, and I begged him very earnestly to persuade the Grand Vizier and the Minister of War to telegraph in this sense to the Ottoman Commissioners.

I have, &c.

(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

No. 344.

Sir N. O'Connor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received December 15.)

(No. 541.)

My Lord,

Constantinople, December 10, 1902.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith an extract from the "Levant Herald" of the 8th instant, stating that the Military Commander in the Yemen has recommended the erection of five new forts on the coast, in order to repress illicit trading and insure public security.

I am requesting His Majesty's Consul at Jeddah to inquire and report to me on the subject.

I have, &c.

(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

Inclosure in No. 344.

Extract from the "Levant Herald and Eastern Express" of the 8th December, 1902.

MARSHAL ABDULLAH PASHA, Commander of the 7th Army Corps and Acting Vali of Yemen, has suggested to the Government to erect five new forts on the coast of that province, in order to repress illicit trade and to insure public security. The new forts are to be situated between Bab-el-Mandeb and a point twelve hours to the north of Konfuda. The Government has, in principle, approved of the Marshal's scheme, and has asked him to furnish a detailed report stating what the forts will cost, together with a map showing their exact geographical position.

No. 345.

Hamid Bey to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received December 15.)

LE Chargé d'Affaires de Turquie présente ses compliments au Marquis de Landowne, et a l'honneur de porter à la haute connaissance de sa Seigneurie que le Gouverneur-Général intérimaire du Yemen a fait savoir à la Sublime Porte que des soldats Anglais ont pénétré dans les localités évacuées par les troupes Impériales, mais qu'en présence de l'attitude hostile des habitants ils ont été obligés de les quitter.

Comme, en vertu de l'entente intervenue entre les deux Gouvernements, les localités dont il s'agit ne doivent être occupées par aucun d'eux jusqu'à ce que leurs Commissaires aient, d'un commun accord, effectué la délimitation des points contestés, Hamid Bey prie sa Seigneurie de vouloir bien faire donner les ordres nécessaires, le plus tôt possible, à qui de droit, en vue de prévenir tout empiètement des soldats Anglais sur les localités susvisées, ainsi que d'ailleurs les autorités Ottomanes, de leur côté, s'abstiennent de le faire.

*Ambassade Impériale de Turquie, Londres,
le 13 Décembre, 1902.*

No. 346.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir A. Hardinge.

(No. 109.)

Sir,

Foreign Office, December 15, 1902.

I TRANSMIT to you herewith, for your observations and for such action as you consider desirable, a copy of a letter from the Euphrates and Tigris Steam Navigation Company* in regard to their wish to obtain modifications of the Road Concession

* No. 322.

which is to be taken over from the Imperial Bank of Persia, in addition to those conceded by the Atabeg-i-Azam in August last, and their request for further assurances as regards the future of the enterprise.

I also inclose a copy of the reply sent to the Euphrates and Tigris Steam Navigation Company.*

I am, &c.
(Signed) LANSDOWNE

No. 347.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received December 16.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Lord George Hamilton, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of a letter from the Resident, Aden, dated the 30th November, and inclosures, relative to the Aden delimitation.

India Office, December 15, 1902.

Inclosure 1 in No. 347.

Political Resident, Aden, to Lord G. Hamilton.

(Confidential.)

Aden Residency, November 16, 1902.

COPY of Colonel Wahab's Secret despatch, dated Camp Dthala, 14th November, 1902, forwarded with compliments to the Secretary, Political and Secret Department, India Office, London. It covers the political diary of the Commission from the 8th to the 13th November, inclusive.

(For the Political Resident),
(Signed) J. S. ASHBY,
Lieutenant-Colonel.

Note.—Copies of the diary have been forwarded to the Government of India, Foreign Department, and the Government of Bombay.

Inclosure 2 in No. 347.

Diary.

(November 8 to 13, 1902, inclusive.)

November 8.—Adjutant-General Zakariya Bey came over to co-operate with Lieutenant Tandy in compiling the identical map of the disputed territory.

November 9.—Interviewed Sheikh Ali-bin-Ali Nagi-az-Zendani, of Jabal Jihaf, and warned him that he is not to create trouble on the withdrawal of the Turkish troops. Interviewed Sheikh Abdullah, of the Mihrabi; he has just returned from Jabal Hesha, and says that Sheikh Daghar, of that district, wishes to come in to enter into relations with the British. Told him that we do not desire to have dealings with Sheikhs of districts which lie beyond the frontier we mean to claim.

Reported that the withdrawal of the Turkish garrison from Jabal Mafari commenced this morning.

November 10.—Parade of the escort in honour of the King's birthday, and presentation of China medals to survey Khalassis. Interviewed Sheikhs Mutlak and Obeid-al-M'akar, of the Mafari. As both admit that trouble would probably ensue if they return to their homes at the present juncture, told them to remain in Dthala for the present.

Interviewed Seyid Ahmad, of Lakmat, as Sallah; he says that his brother, Seyid Ali, went to Lakmat as Sallah last week, and was captured and kept prisoner by the

followers of Seyid Ahmad Mohsin, the man who was installed by the Turks when they ejected Seyid Ahmad.

Reported that Turkish troops were closely patrolling their whole front last night within a mile of the British camp, from Nukah, at the foot of Jabal Jihaf, to the head of the Khureba Nakil.

November 11.—Convoy started for Aden.

November 12.—The withdrawal of Turkish troops from Jabal Jihaf and Jabal Mafari is reported to be progressing steadily; delay is attributed to the unwillingness of the Turks to pay the hire of camels for the transport of their baggage.

November 13.—Reported that Khalil Bey, the Kaimakam and Commandant of Kataba, is proclaiming to the people of Jihaf and Mafari that the Turkish Government are not relinquishing their claim on the country, and that they are to hold their own and to fire on any British party that may attempt to visit their country.

(Secret.)

Camp Dthala, November 14, 1902.

Forwarded to the Resident at Aden for favour of transmission to the Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department.

(Signed) R. A. WAHAB, Colonel,
Commissioner, Aden Boundary Commission.

No. 348.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received December 16.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Lord George Hamilton, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of inclosure in a letter from the Foreign Secretary to the Government of India, dated the 13th November, relative to the threatened attack on Jebel Harir.

India Office, December 15, 1902.

Inclosure in No. 348.

Government of Bombay to Government of India.

(Confidential.)

Sir,

Bombay Castle, October 31, 1902.

IN continuation of my Confidential letter dated the 28th instant, I am directed to state, for the information of the Government of India, that the Political Resident, Aden, in a letter dated the 26th instant, reports that according to information recently received the threatened attack on Jabal Harir proved abortive, and the enemy rapidly dispersed, that no complications have arisen, and that the incident is now apparently at an end.

2. Brigadier-General Maitland reports, further, that information has also been received that the Turkish Mission to the Imam, referred to in the accompaniment to my letter of the 28th instant, has failed, the Imam rejecting all advances.

I have, &c.
(Signed) S. W. EDGERLEY,

No. 349.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received December 16.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Lord George Hamilton, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of a telegram to the Viceroy, dated the 15th instant, relative to the Perso-Afghan frontier dispute.

India Office, December 16, 1902.

Inclosure in No. 349.

Lord G. Hamilton to Government of India.

(Telegraphic.) P.

India Office, December 15, 1902.

PLEASE refer to your telegram relative to Seistan arbitration, dated the 23rd November, and to mine, dated the 5th instant.

A telegram from the Grand Vizier has been shown to Lord Lansdowne by the Persian Minister to the effect that when the report of the rise of the Helmund was communicated to the Shah, His Majesty stated that it was unnecessary to send a Commissioner in the circumstances. I should be glad to be informed of the instructions that Major McMahon is receiving from you.

No. 350.

The Law Officers of the Crown to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received December 16.)

My Lord,

Royal Courts of Justice, December 16, 1902.

WE were honoured with your Lordship's commands signified to us by Mr. Campbell in his letter of the 17th November last, stating that he was directed by your Lordship to transmit to us the papers relating to Customs arrangements between Egypt and Persia.

That it would be seen that our predecessors were consulted in 1890 in regard to the position in which Egypt was placed by the termination of all hitherto existing Commercial Treaties between the Porte and certain foreign Powers, and that with the concurrence of the then Law Officers a despatch was addressed to Her Majesty's Agency at Cairo, stating the views of Her Majesty's Government as to the position of Egypt in regard to commercial arrangements with foreign Powers.

That he was to draw our particular attention to the following passages in that despatch:—

"In the view of Her Majesty's Government, the result of the Firmans from which I have quoted is that Egypt acquired by them commercial liberty so far as the Porte could grant it. The Sultan could not by arrangement with a vassal, abolish the rights of foreign States under Treaties then existing, but by the Firman of 1873 His Majesty divested himself of any right in the future to conclude commercial arrangements for Egypt, and only stipulated that the commercial arrangements to be made by the Khedive with foreign Powers should not affect the Sultan's political rights.

"Foreign Powers not having made protest against the Firmans should, in the opinion of Her Majesty's Government, be held to have accepted their effect on their own position wherein their then existing Treaty rights should lapse, and no foreign Power has ground for setting up as against Egypt the stipulations in commercial matters of a Treaty with the Porte of a date subsequent to the Firman of 1873.

"No Power could claim the application in Egypt of a Tariff agreed upon since 1873 between such Power and the Porte. Such Tariff might be accepted by agreement between any Power and the Egyptian Government, but it would then come into force as a Commercial Convention made by Egypt, and the right to claim the benefit of stipulations contained in other Commercial Conventions made by Egypt would depend upon the terms of the Agreement itself."

That it appeared to you to follow from the principle thus laid down that it was not in the power of the Turkish Government, in conjunction with another Power having Treaties with Turkey of earlier date than 1873, to enter into any arrangement whether revising, adding to, prolonging or abrogating them, which could in any way affect the Treaty relations between that other Power and Egypt.

That the commercial relations between Turkey and Persia before the issue of the Firman of 1873 were governed principally by the Treaties of Erzeroum of 1823 and 1847, and by an Arrangement of 1870, which fixed the import duties of each country on the goods of the other at 6 per cent.

That Persia now wished to increase her revenue by raising her customs duties. That she had on the one hand the above Arrangement with Turkey; that on the other, she was bound towards Russia by the Treaty of Commerce signed at Turkmanchai in

1828, providing for the levy of an import duty not exceeding 5 per cent. on Russian goods imported into Persia.

That the latter country had negotiated a new Tariff with Russia which, as in some classes the rate was higher than 6 per cent., she could not enforce without the consent of Turkey, Turkey having a Commercial Agreement with Persia in which the rate of duty was stipulated. That she had accordingly concluded with Turkey a new arrangement which, as she believed (though there was doubt on the point), released her from her Tariff obligations towards Turkey, so far as any specific rate was concerned. That if this belief were correct the question arose whether she was also relieved of her engagements towards Egypt in this respect.

That the proposed Russo-Persian Tariff was in some respects unfavourable to British and especially to Indian trade, and that British goods imported into Persia would be subject to the rates specified in that Tariff, this country having only a most-favoured-nation arrangement with Persia, unless His Majesty's Government were able to claim that the former Treaties between Turkey and Persia were still in force as regards Egypt.

That Persia could not plead ignorance of the position created by the Firman of 1873, for discussions on the subject took place in the years 1887 and 1894, when she signed with Egypt two separate Conventions regarding tobacco, the first for ten years, the second, which replaced it, for twenty-two years. That it appeared to your Lordship that by entering into these arrangements she admitted that Egypt was a separate country for Customs purposes.

That when Venezuela broke off her connection with the United States of Colombia she was still held bound by the Treaty of Commerce with the United Kingdom concluded by the parent State; and that the United Kingdom, the other party to the bargain, continued to incur, as regards Venezuela, the responsibilities as well as to enjoy the rights involved in the mutual undertaking.

That similarly it would seem that Egypt was bound by the old Turkish Treaties, and that Persia was also bound by them as regards both Egypt and the Porte. That it might be argued that, though Egypt continued to be subject to the old Treaties between Turkey and Persia, Persia, on her side, might at any time repudiate them as regards Egypt on the ground that her original Contracts were with a single State; that it was an intolerable inconvenience to her, amounting to a complete change in the condition of those Contracts, to have to deal with two separate States instead of one; and that she was entitled to maintain that her Contracts were with Turkey, and that she could recognize no other party to them.

That the answer to this contention seemed to be that it was open to Persia to make a declaration to that effect when the Firman was first brought to her notice, and to have maintained that position by steadily declining to negotiate with Egypt; but that it was not competent for her to revert to an attitude of protest after having concluded separate Conventions with Egypt in regard to tobacco.

That he was to draw our attention to the Memorandum relating to the action taken by Egypt, on her own account and without reference to the Sultan, to terminate the Turkish Treaty of Commerce with Great Britain of 1861 and similar Treaties with other foreign Powers. That these Treaties were limited in their duration, that was to say, that they ran for successive terms of seven years; option being reserved to either Party to terminate their Treaty at the end of the first or any other period by giving one year's notice. That negotiations subsequently took place between this country and Egypt, and that they resulted in a Commercial Convention, signed on the 3rd March, 1884, which, however, by common agreement would not come into operation until all the other Powers had concluded similar arrangements.

That the old Treaties between Turkey and Persia were not limited as to time, and were essentially reciprocal engagements, and that it was difficult to see how one party could remain bound under such an arrangement and the other could be free.

That if the view that the position of Egypt and Persia towards one another under the old Treaties could not be affected by any arrangement between Turkey and Persia subsequent to the Firman of 1873 were sound, then Egypt would apparently be entitled to the continuance for her goods of the existing Persian Tariff, and that His Majesty's Government, under the most-favoured-nation stipulation in the Treaty between this country and Persia of 1857, would be able to insist on receiving the same treatment.

That he was to request that we would favour your Lordship with an opinion as to whether this were correct, and that he was to add that your Lordship would also be glad if we would at the same time favour you with any observations of a general nature which we might have to offer.

Attorney-General's Opinion.

I have taken the matter into my consideration, and, in obedience to your Lordship's commands, have the honour to

Report—

That (1) I am of opinion that after the Firmans of 1867, 1873, and 1879, Turkey could not, in the case of a Power which like Persia had recognized and acted upon these Firmans, put an end, so far as Egypt is concerned, to an anterior Treaty as to commercial relations. To abrogate a Treaty requires a new Treaty or Convention which *ex hypothesi* must affect commercial relations, and Turkey by these Firmans renounced the right of entering into any such Treaty or Convention in relation to Egypt.

(2.) But, further, the note of the 5th September, 1902, stipulates for most-favoured-nation treatment. This is clearly a new Convention as to commercial relations which Turkey could not enter into on behalf of Egypt, and which neither Turkey nor Persia could, in face of the Firmans, have intended to apply to Egypt. The ancillary stipulation annulling all previous dispositions inconsistent with the new arrangement cannot, I think, be fairly read as applying to Egypt, to which the main arrangement for most-favoured-nation treatment did not and could not apply, whatever effect the exclusion of Egypt might have upon the most-favoured-nation arrangement between Turkey and Persia.

I therefore think that the Tariff provided by the anterior Treaties is still in force as regards Egypt.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. B. FINLAY.

Solicitor-General's Opinion.

I have taken the matter into my consideration, and, in obedience to your Lordship's commands, have the honour to

Report—

That, in my opinion, the granting of the Firmans of 1867, 1873, and 1879 by the Porte did not affect the existing Treaty with Persia, and although after the Firmans it would have been impossible for the Porte to impose a new Treaty affecting commercial relations upon Egypt, I am of opinion that the right of Persia to terminate the existing Treaty by agreement with Turkey still existed, as the parties to the Treaty were not changed by the granting of the Firmans and the notice thereof given to Persia. I think to hold otherwise would be to place Persia, through no act of her own, in the position of not being able to terminate the Treaty without the consent of a party with whom Persia had never contracted. I am inclined to agree that the note of the 5th September, 1902, might be construed in strictness as only altering the Tariffs between Persia and Turkey, and still leaving the Treaty in operation in all other respects including the Tariffs as then applicable to Egypt; but I think that cannot have been the intention of Turkey and Persia, as the result of conceding a most-favoured-nation clause would be to set up again as between these countries the Tariffs applicable to Egypt, which was the very thing they were attempting to get rid of.

I am therefore of opinion that the effect of the arrangement of the 5th September, 1902, was to put an end to the existing Treaties so far as Tariffs were concerned as well for Egypt and Turkey, and that after this arrangement Egypt was free to enter into such a Commercial Treaty with Persia as might be agreed upon.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWARD CARSON.

No. 351.

[Nil.]

No. 352.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received December 17.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Lord George Hamilton, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of inclosure in a letter from the Foreign Secretary to the Government of India, dated the 27th November, relative to the Perso-Afghan frontier dispute.

India Office, December 16, 1902.

Inclosure 1 in No. 352.

Government of India to Ameer of Afghanistan.

My valued and esteemed Friend,
I HAVE received your Highness' friendly letter dated the 15th October last. I can quite understand that, in a matter of such importance, your Highness should have considered it desirable to consult your local officers, but it is clear that they have not kept your Highness fully acquainted with the present position of affairs concerning which I have the latest information from my officers.

There can be no doubt that your Highness' local officers did at first claim that the boundary of Afghanistan followed the main stream of the Helmund, and to assert this principle they crossed the line laid down by Colonel Goldsmid and entered what has hitherto been regarded as Persian Seistan, and camped for some time at Deh Dost Muhammad across the border. But for the friendly intervention of the British Consul, this act might readily have precipitated hostilities, as armed bodies were present on both sides. Your Highness is doubtless aware of these facts. The Persians have, in the meantime, informed the British Government that they are expecting the arrival of the British Arbitrator, whose presence they have invoked under Treaty stipulation; but pending his appearance, I have information that considerable bodies of Persian troops are on their way to the spot. The British Consul has also reported, after visiting the place, that the whole of the water of the Helmund which passed the Kohak bund, was, at the end of September, when water was urgently required for the Rabi sowings, being diverted into the old channel of the Helmund by an Afghan bund at Shahgul and a channel dug by the Afghans just above this bund, and that the whole of lower Persian Seistan was thereby left without water. The local Persian authorities had remonstrated with the Afghan officials who refused to allow any water to go down to Persian Seistan. Since then it appears that the Persians have been engaged in constructing another channel above the Afghan channel in order to counteract it, and that the Afghans have now begun a third channel above the Persians. Seven hundred men are working on the Persian channel; and the position is one that may at any moment produce a conflict.

My friend, I now turn to your Highness' interpretation of the frontier as settled by Colonel Goldsmid. Your Highness has informed me that you do not rely on the main stream of the Helmund as fixing the boundary of the two States, since the course of that river is undoubtedly liable to great and sudden changes, but that you now consider the boundary of Afghanistan to be fixed by the red line on the map which was prepared in 1872 to illustrate Colonel Goldsmid's Award. A copy of this map with the Award was sent at that time to Ameer Shere Ali through Saiyid Nur Muhammad Shah, the Afghan Commissioner, and a second copy of the map by itself was forwarded to Ameer Abdur Rahman Khan with my letter of the 24th July, 1901.

It would seem that your Highness, in examining the question of the frontier, has only inspected the map, and has not studied the Award. It contains these words: "The main bed of the Helmund, therefore, below Kohak, should be the eastern boundary of Persian Seistan, and the line of frontier from Kohak to the hills south of the Seistan Desert should be so drawn as to include within the Afghan limits all cultivation on both

banks of the river from the bund upwards. . . . It is, moreover, to be well understood that no works are to be carried out on either side calculated to interfere with the requisite supply of water for irrigation on both banks of the Helmund."

Now, from this description, which the map is merely intended to illustrate, it is clear that the boundary is not the red line, but the bed of the river along which it runs. This is also evident from other and larger maps where the painted line runs down the middle of the river, and not along its left bank. I send your Highness a copy of one of these maps in which the boundary of the two States is marked, as it always has been in larger maps, by different coloured lines and alternate dots running down each bank of the river. It is only because the map sent to your Highness' father is on a small scale that the red line is drawn upon it along the left bank, in order that the red paint may not be mixed with the blue paint. It is not the case, therefore, as stated by your Highness, that by Colonel Goldsmid's decision the whole of the river below the Kohak bund and the Kohak bund were left to Afghanistan, or that your Highness' subjects are at liberty to do what they please with the water below Kohak. Further, it is clear from the Award of Colonel Goldsmid and from correspondence that passed between Atta Muhammad Khan, Khakwani, British Agent at Cabul, under instructions from the British Government, and Saiyid Nur Muhammad Shah, the Sadr Azam, in February 1874, in consequence of inquiries made by the latter as to the meaning of this portion of the Award, that the Persians have the same right to make channels on their side of the river below Kohak as the Afghans have to make them on theirs, and that channels should not be constructed by either party which will interfere with the water in the old ones. These then are the facts. Your Highness and your officials are apparently under a misapprehension as to the true position of the boundary fixed by Colonel Goldsmid; and your Highness' subjects, and the subjects of the Persian Government on the spot, are engaged in works and counter-works which are contrary to the Agreement, and have thereby become involved in disputes which can only be settled by the intervention of an officer of experience and independent judgment, who will visit the spot and will there mark out clearly in accordance with the map the boundary as laid down by Colonel Goldsmid, and will decide as to the bunds and channels which each party should be allowed to maintain. In no other way can the dispute be satisfactorily settled. The Persian Government have appealed to the British Government to appoint an Arbitrator as long ago as the 22nd July, 1902, and the British Government have signified their intention to do so. Your Highness is also bound to be guided by the British Government in your relations with foreign Powers, such as Persia. The British Government have, therefore, a grave responsibility in this matter, and, as I have recently by telegram and special letter from Landi Kotal requested the British Agent to inform you, they cannot permit the interests of peace and of your Highness' territories and subjects in Seistan to be imperilled by neglect to settle the questions at issue.

There is another matter of which your Highness does not appear to be aware. From information in my possession, I am led to believe that the Persians have for some time been in occupation of a place called Takht-i-Shah, on the edge of the Naizar, on the side towards Chakansur, which is on the Afghan side of the frontier as determined by Colonel Goldsmid. If this be the case, it seems desirable that the Persian Government should evacuate a place which is within your Highness' territory.

For all these reasons, I have decided to appoint Major McMahon as Arbitrator to settle these disputes, and I have directed him to proceed at once on the road towards Seistan. I must ask your Highness to depute a trusted official to meet him, and I shall be glad if you will issue immediate orders that Major McMahon may be permitted to proceed to Seistan via Khwaja Ali on the Helmund, and that your officer should meet him there and arrange for his supplies. Your Highness may rest assured that the interests of your territory will be safe in the hands of the British Arbitrator, who will impartially consider the claims of each side, and that if he be not sent, trouble and detriment to your Highness and your people in the direction of Seistan will ensue.

I have asked my agent in Cabul to deliver this letter himself to your Highness, and to ask for a reply which he may send at once by your special Sowars to Peshawar, since it is undesirable, in a case of so much moment, where the Persian Government is ready, and where also the British Government have made their preparations, that there should be any further delay on the part of the Afghan Government.

All else is well, and I hope your Highness is in good health.

Inclosure 2 in No. 352.

Major Benn to Government of India.

(Telegraphic.)

Seistan, November 12 (Nushki, November 20), 1902.

MY telegram No. 370.

Reports having reached here of Akhundzada's intention destroy Seistan bund, I saw him on frontier line on 6th November and explained terms of your telegram No. 2848 F.

Akhundzada promised, and Afghan Boundary Commissioner and Commandant agreed, not to construct any new works pending arrival British Arbitrator, on condition that Persians gave similar promise. I have also seen Deputy-Governor, Karguzar of Seistan, and Yamin-i-Nizam, who is emissary of Persian Government for frontier. Two first-named verbally stated their willingness to maintain *status quo*. Yamin resented my visit and gave me no assurance. He has now officially protested through the Karguzar against my interference in the internal affairs of this province. I visited country from Deh Dost Muhammad to near Kohak bund, and it appeared to me fair division of water below Kohak at present moment exists. Miankangi has water, and as Helmund is rising, it should receive more. Report follows. Addressed Foreign; repeated Agent, Governor-General, Quetta; posted Meshed.

Inclosure 3 in No. 352.

Government of India to Lord G. Hamilton, November 20, 1902.

[Already printed.]

Inclosure 4 in No. 352.

Government of India to Mr. des Graz, November 21, 1902.

[Already printed.]

Inclosure 5 in No. 352.

Mr. des Graz to the Marquess of Lansdowne, October 12, 1902.

[Already printed.]

Inclosure 6 in No. 352.

Mr. des Graz to Mushir-ed-Dowleh, October 7, 1902.

[Already printed.]

No. 353.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received December 17.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Lord George Hamilton, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of telegrams from the Resident, Aden, dated the 15th and 16th December, relative to the Aden delimitation.

India Office, December 16, 1902.

Inclosure 1 in No. 353.

Resident, Aden, to Lord G. Hamilton.

(Telegraphic.) P.

Aden, December 15, 1902.

WITH regard to my telegram of the 24th November, a Report has reached me from Colonel Wahab, under date of the 12th December, that recognition of the inclusion of the Yaffai among the nine cantons is still refused by the Turkish Commissioner.

Until the Turkish Commissioner receives distinct orders from the Porte that the Yaffai are recognized as one of the nine cantons, and that the frontier-line is to run in a north-easterly direction from Lakmat-ash-shuab, between the Mares districts and the Shaibi districts of the Yaffai, it will be impossible to proceed with demarcation to the north-east.

In continuation of my telegram of the 11th December, I have to report that Colonel Wahab is still at Dthali.

There is no truth whatever in the complaints as to the movements of the British Commission.

(Repeated to Government of Bombay and to Constantinople.)

Inclosure 2 in No. 353.

Resident, Aden, to the Government of Bombay.

(Telegraphic.) P.

Aden, December 16, 1902.

ACCORDING to a Report received from Colonel Wahab, without the goodwill of the Yaffai tribe it will be impossible for the British Commissioner to go through their country. The Yaffai are a very great and powerful tribe, whose goodwill can, he thinks, be secured if an assurance is given them that in regard to stipend they will be treated in the same terms as other tribes within the protected territory. He does not think that they will agree at all to a British party going through their country should this assurance not be forthcoming.

There would appear to be no objection to the assurance asked for being given to the Yaffai, in view of the fact that His Majesty's Government have informed the Porte that they consider the Yaffai to be included in the nine cantons, and the Porte has admitted this to be the case.

See Sir N. O'Connor's despatch No. 411 of the 10th September to the Foreign Office.

(Repeated to Secretary of State and to Constantinople.)

No. 354.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Hamid Bey.

THE Marquess of Lansdowne presents his compliments to the Turkish Chargé d'Affaires, and has the honour to inform him that the substance of his note of the 30th ultimo relative to the proceedings of the British Commission on the Aden frontier was telegraphed to the Resident at Aden, with instructions to inquire into the matters complained of by the Turkish Government.

The Resident has replied that he has requested the British Commissioners to report on the subject.

In the meantime, a despatch has been received from Colonel Wahab, in which he reports that on the 16th ultimo he received a note from the Turkish Commissioners complaining that on the previous day a detachment, composed of British soldiers and armed men of Dthala, commanded by British officers, had attempted to ascend Jebel Jihaf, and had fired on the villagers there.

Colonel Wahab replied that this statement was entirely erroneous, and that nothing of the kind had taken place. He explained that on the 15th ultimo the agent of the transport contractor of the British Commission, with two of his Arab employés, approached a village on the slope of Jebel Jihaf, nearest to Dthala, for the purpose of buying honey from the villagers. A number of armed Arabs came out of the village and called upon the party to retire, firing several shots at them. The agent and his men thereupon withdrew.

It seems probable that this incident has given rise to the report mentioned in Hamed Bey's note.

Foreign Office, December 17, 1902.

No. 355.

Foreign Office to India Office.

Sir,

Foreign Office, December 17, 1902.

I AM directed by the Marquess of Lansdowne to transmit to you, for any steps which the Secretary of State for India may think desirable, a copy of a note from the Turkish Chargé d'Affaires,* stating that the Acting Vali of Yemen has reported that British troops recently occupied the places in the neighbourhood of the frontier of the Aden Protectorate which have been evacuated by the Turkish forces, and that they have been compelled to retire from them in consequence of the hostile attitude of the inhabitants.

I am to inclose, for Lord G. Hamilton's information, copy of a letter which has been addressed to Hamid Bey,† in reply to his note of the 30th ultimo, containing a somewhat similar complaint.

I am, &c.

(Signed) T. H. SANDERSON.

No. 356.

Foreign Office to Euphrates and Tigris Steam Navigation Company.

Sir,

Foreign Office, December 17, 1902.

I HAVE laid before the Marquess of Lansdowne your letter of the 9th instant, in regard to the wish of the Euphrates and Tigris Steam Navigation Company to obtain certain modifications of the Road Concession which is being taken over from the Imperial Bank of Persia in addition to those conceded by the Atabeg-i-Azam in August last, and their request for further assurances as regards the future of the enterprise.

Lord Lansdowne will transmit a copy of your letter to His Majesty's Minister at Tehran, for his observations and for such action as he may consider desirable.

It appears to His Lordship unfortunate, in view of the objections now raised to clause 2 of the document received from the Atabeg-i-Azam, that Mr. Lynch should have accepted that document from his Highness at the time. It seems difficult now to press for a modification of its wording.

I am to inquire whether you can furnish Lord Lansdowne with any particulars as to the estimated cost of improving the routes mentioned in your letter.

I am, &c.

(Signed) T. H. SANDERSON.

No. 357.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received December 18.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Lord George Hamilton, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of inclosures in a letter from the Foreign Secretary to the Government of India, dated the 20th ultimo, relative to the establishment of a Russian bank in Seistan.

India Office, December 17, 1902.

Inclosure 1 in No. 357.

Lieutenant-Colonel Whyte to Government of India.

(Telegraphic.) P.

Meshed, November 4, 1902.

PLEASE refer to my telegram of the 20th ultimo. The manager of the Russian Bank has just returned from St. Petersburg. I have received a message from one of the principal Mirzas of the bank, who is in our pay, that a Seistan branch will be opened, at first with a native in charge, and that later a Russian will be sent. The manager announced, at a large meeting of merchants, that a Russian school for teaching foreign languages will shortly be opened at Meshed, and that Russian glass and cloth manufactories will shortly be established in the neighbourhood of Meshed.

Inclosure 2 in No. 357.

Government of India to Lieutenant-Colonel Whyte.

(Telegraphic.) P.

Simla, November 15, 1902.

AS to Russian intentions regarding the branch bank in Seistan, I assume you informed His Britannic Majesty's Minister, Tehran, of the reports.

No. 358.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received December 18.)

Sir,

India Office, December 18, 1902.

I AM directed by the Secretary of State for India to forward, for the information of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, copies of telegrams from the Resident at Aden, dated the 15th and 16th instant,* in the latter of which he proposes that a pledge should be given to the Yaffai that they will be treated on the same terms as regards subsidy as the other tribes within the protected territory, stating that, without such a subsidy, the tribe will not consent to the British Commission passing through their country.

The question was raised by the Government of India in their despatch of the 24th July last, No. 130, Secret, in which they proposed to authorize the Resident at Aden to conclude Protectorate Treaties with the Sheikhs of the Upper Yaffai tribe, as well as with other Chiefs belonging to the nine tribes. But the Secretary of State in his despatch of the 5th September, No. 38, Secret, expressed the view that it was inadvisable to take action in the matter till the work of the Boundary Commission had been completed, when further information would have been obtained regarding the position of the tribes.

The Resident's telegram now forwarded seems to show that the fears expressed by the Government of India, in their despatch of the 24th July, that the Turks would make overtures to the tribes in order to secure their allegiance to the Sultan, were justified. It appears to Lord George Hamilton inexpedient at the present moment to allow the Turks to extend their influence in any way over any of the nine tribes.

* See No. 353.

Lord George Hamilton would therefore be inclined, if Lord Lansdowne agrees, to authorize the Resident to promise the Upper Yaffai a subsidy, such as he suggests, pending the final delimitation, the question of granting the tribe a permanent Protectorate Treaty being reserved for consideration till the proceedings of the Commission have been concluded, when fuller information will be available.

A draft of a telegram which Lord George Hamilton proposes to send to the Government of India on the subject is inclosed.

I am, &c.
(Signed) HORACE WALPOLE.

Inclosure in No. 358.

Lord G. Hamilton to Government of India.

(Telegraphic.) P.

December 19, 1902.

PLEASE refer to the telegram from the Resident, Aden, dated the 16th December. As to a subsidy to the Upper Yaffai, the better course would be, pending final delimitation, to offer them an immediate payment for allowing the Commission to enter their territory, the grant of a Protectorate Treaty to the tribe, as to which see my Secret despatch No. 38, dated the 5th September last, being reserved for consideration until fuller information is available, on the conclusion of the proceedings of the Commission. Please issue instructions accordingly to the Resident. Lord Lansdowne concurs.

No. 359.

Foreign Office to India Office.

Sir,

Foreign Office, December 18, 1902.

I AM directed by the Marquess of Lansdowne to transmit to you a copy of a despatch from His Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople in regard to a statement which has appeared in the semi-official newspaper "Ikdam,"* that the Turkish Government propose to create administrative districts at Zobara, Adiac, Dikre, and Jezireh-ul-Amair, on the Arabian Coast of the Persian Gulf.

I am to request that the Secretary of State for India will be so good as to furnish Lord Lansdowne with his observations on Sir N. O'Connor's despatch.

I am, &c.
(Signed) T. H. SANDERSON.

No. 360.

Foreign Office to India Office.

(Confidential.)

Sir,

Foreign Office, December 18, 1902.

I HAVE laid before the Marquess of Lansdowne your letter of to-day inclosing copies of two telegrams from the Resident at Aden in regard to the Delimitation Commission.

With reference to the proposal of the Resident that a pledge should be given to the Yaffai tribe that they will be treated on the same terms as regards subsidy as the other tribes within the Protectorate, I am to suggest, for the consideration of the Secretary of State for India, that it would be preferable to offer to the Upper Yaffai, pending the final delimitation, an immediate payment for allowing the Commission to have access to their territory.

The draft telegram to the Viceroy transmitted by you has otherwise Lord Lansdowne's concurrence, and is returned herewith with a suggested alteration to the above effect.

I am, &c.
(Signed) T. H. SANDERSON.

* No. 306.

No. 361.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received December 19.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Lord George Hamilton, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, decypher of a telegram from the Resident at Aden, dated the 16th December, respecting an alleged attack by Subaihis on a Turkish tribe.

India Office, December 18, 1902.

Inclosure in No. 361.

Resident, Aden, to Lord G. Hamilton.

(Telegraphic.) P.

Aden, December 16, 1902.

WITH regard to the alleged attack by Subaihi on the Hakim country, referred to in your telegram to the Viceroy, dated the 26th November, no organized attack by the Subaihi tribe took place. The outlawed son of one of the Sheikhs of the Atiffi clan of the Subaihi, with three or four companions, fired upon Debab, and killed one man; no goods were pillaged, and the village was not burnt. In order to prevent the recurrence of any such attack the Sheikh has been warned that he must take suitable measures.

No. 362.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received December 19.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Lord George Hamilton, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of two letters from the Resident at Aden, of the 30th November, and inclosures, respecting the Aden Delimitation Commission.

India Office, December 18, 1902.

Inclosure 1 in No. 362.

Resident, Aden, to India Office.

(Confidential.)

Aden Residency, November 30, 1902.

COLONEL Wahab's letter, dated Camp Dthala, the 28th November, 1902, forwarded with compliments to the Secretary Political and Secret Department, India Office, London. It covers the political diary of the Commission from the 20th to 27th November, 1902, inclusive.

(For Political Resident, Aden),

(Signed) J. S. ASHBY, Lieutenant-Colonel.

NOTE.—Copies of the diary have been forwarded to the Government of India, Foreign Department, and the Government of Bombay.

Inclosure 2 in No. 362.

Diary.

(November 20 to 27, inclusive.)

November 21.—Lieutenant-Colonel Ibrahim Seifi came over from Jalela to say that news had been brought to them that Sheikh Said Ismail Thuer, of the Shairi village of Aul Sabula, had threatened to attack the Shairi village of Al Kuren with a body of the Amir of Dthala's armed men. Wrote, forbidding Said Ismail Thuer to take any such action.

November 22.—Received a letter from Sheikh Said Ismail Thuer, explaining the circumstances which led to Lieutenant-Colonel Ibrahim Seifi's complaint. Some months ago, a man called Muthanna Saleh-al-Hadad, who has been nominated Akil of Al Kuren by the Turks, sent a camel for sale to the Dthala bazaar. It was suspected that the camel had been stolen, and the Amir ordered Al Hadad to give the usual security in case this should prove true. He got Said Ismail Thuer to stand bail for him. It has now transpired that the camel really was stolen, and Al Hadad, relying on Turkish protection, refuses to come before the Amir for judgment, or to pay up so as to free Said Ismail from his responsibility in the matter. It is another instance of the risk and difficulty of the present situation.

Captain Thompson went to Jalela, to give medical advice to Lieutenant-Colonel Ibrahim Seifi.

November 23.—Seyid Ahmad, and other men of Lakmat-as-Sallah, came to ask for money for their subsistence, as they say it is quite impossible to return to their homes or to make any recovery of their property under present circumstances. The Turkish assurance of the evacuation of Lakmat-as-Sallah is thus practically a dead letter.

Mr. Fitzmaurice, third Dragoman of His Majesty's Embassy at Constantinople, arrived and joined the Commission.

It is reported that Turkish Arab levies continue to be posted at Wali Shafi at night, in spite of the assurance given by the Turkish Commissioners.

November 24.—Lieutenant-Colonel Ibrahim Seifi and the Turkish Medical Officer came over to inspect our hospital arrangements. Agreed that a meeting of the Commission should take place to-morrow morning.

Told the Amir that he must settle the Al Kuren affair as best he can for the present.

It is reported that Ghalib, the Turkish nominee to the Sheikship of the Mafari, is building defences to protect the approaches to Jabal Mafari from attack.

Four shots were fired into our camp from the direction of Al Kabar at 7-30 p.m. It was subsequently reported on good authority that this was done by three of the Arab levies in Turkish pay, at Jalela.

November 25.—The eighth meeting of the Joint Commission took place in the Turkish camp.

The Turkish Commissioners produced the identical map of the Amiri country, with the line claimed by them marked upon it, and the names written in Turkish characters. They proposed a title in which the line of demarcation was described as between the Caza of Kataba and the tribe of Dthala; I declined to agree to this, as the description is "Amiri" in the original list of the nine tribes, and as the Turkish Commissioners have throughout made a point of minimizing the Amir's importance by referring to him as merely the Sheikh of the town of Dthala; it was finally decided that "Amiri" should be inserted in brackets after "Dthala." The Turkish Commissioners then asked when the move to Lakmat-ash-Shuab was to take place for the commencement of the survey work by the Sub-Commission in the Shaibi country. I replied that the move could not be made so long as they refused to accede to our claim to absolute freedom of movement in the country through which our communications would pass, also, that on further consideration, I thought it undesirable that work should commence in the Shaibi country until the question of the inclusion of the Yafa as one of the nine tribes was settled.

The Turkish Commissioners then proposed that while these questions were being settled by our Governments, we should, in order to save time, go on with the demarcation to the south-west. As it is most undesirable to leave the questions which have arisen here unsettled, and as any move on our part to the south-west would be regarded by the inhabitants as a retreat, I declined to agree to this. I said that, as we have accepted orders from our Governments to demarcate to the north-east we must adhere to them, and that we claim the obviously true interpretation of these orders to be that

the frontier-line should go north-east between the Shaibi country and the Mares district.

The Turkish Commissioners continued to maintain their claim to the Yafa, and to the Shaibi country as part of Mares. Reference to the map will show that this, if admitted, would mean that the frontier would go far to the south-east instead of the north-east as agreed. As nothing was to be gained by further discussion, it was decided to adjourn, and that at the next meeting the Turkish Commissioners should produce the evidence on which they claim that the Shaibi country is part of the Mares district.

Wrote to Sheikh Ali Mohsin Askar, of the Upper Yafa, and to Sheikh Ali Mana, as Sakladi of the Shaibi, asking them to bring evidence to refute the Turkish claim to the Shaibi country.

November 26.—It was reported that Turkish troopers have been sent to arrest two of the Amir's men of Dthi Miran. The Akil of Al W'ara came in and said that some of the Turk's Arab levies were going to search his village for contraband tobacco, and that the people were determined to resist. It was also reported that the Turks have been instructing the people of Jihaf and Mafari to fortify themselves and prepare to oppose us. Also that Seyid Ahmad Mohsin has collected all the revenue of Lakmat-as-Sallah.

Mr. Fitzmaurice went to Jalela and remonstrated with Colonel Mustapha Ramzi on the subject of these reports as giving ground to suspect action which does not accord with their promise to abstain from all interference in the disputed territory. Colonel Mustapha Ramzi replied with the usual denials and assurances.

Adjutant-Major Zakariya Bey and a Lieutenant came to the British camp and copied certain documents referring to the Amir's claims.

The detachment of the 2nd Bombay Grenadiers arrived to relieve the detachment of the 1st Grenadiers forming the escort of the Commission.

November 27.—Khalil Bey, the Commandant of Kataba, is said to have sent a long report to San'a about the Jabal Jihaf incident (Diary, 16th November), representing it as an attempt by British troops to ascend Jabal Jihaf on the withdrawal of the Turkish troops, and a repulse of the attempt by the Arabs.

The Amir brought a letter from the Akil of Al 'Ukla, north of Lakmat-ash-Shuab, claiming that his village is in the Haiaz district, and so under the Amir, asking if he would be supported in this claim, and saying that, if not, he would migrate rather than submit to Turkish rule. The Amir admitted that Al 'Ukla is outside his border and within that of Mares, and agreed not to accept the Akil's advances.

(Secret.)

Camp Dthala, November 28, 1902.

Forwarded to the Resident at Aden, for favour of transmission to the Political Secretary, India Office.

(Signed) R. A. WAHAB, Colonel.

Inclosure 3 in No. 362.

Resident, Aden, to India Office.

(Confidential.)

Aden Residency, November 30, 1902.

COPIES of Colonel Wahab's telegrams, dated Camp Dthala, the 28th November last, to the Political Resident, Aden, forwarded with compliments to the Secretary, Political and Secret Department, India Office, London.

(For Political Resident),

(Signed) J. S. ASHBY, Lieutenant-Colonel.

Note.—Copies of the despatches have been forwarded to Government of India and the Bombay Government.

Inclosure 4 in No. 362.

Colonel Wahab to Resident, Aden.

(Secret.)

Sir,

Camp Dthala, November 28, 1902

I HAVE the honour to state that the Turkish Commissioners still assert that their instructions prevent their admitting the Yafa and Aulaki tribes as among the nine tribes with which His Majesty's Government is in direct relations.

Sir H. Elliot's letter of the 6th June, 1873, reported that the Porte had given assurances that the tribes enumerated in Lord Granville's letter of the 15th May, 1873 (among which the Yafa and Aulaki are included), would not be interfered with. It is feared, however, that these assurances, like others given by the Porte with reference to the Aden border, are of little or no value, not having been ratified by Imperial Irade; and as no progress can be made with delimitation to the north-east, while a fundamental question like this remains unsettled, I would suggest His Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople should be asked to demand that early orders be given on this point, which the local authorities will carry out without further questions.

I have, &c.

(Signed) R. A. WAHAB, Colonel.

Inclosure 5 in No. 362.

Colonel Wahab to Resident, Aden.

(Secret.)

Sir,

Camp Dthala, November 28, 1902.

I HAVE the honour to inform you that at a recent meeting of the Commission the Turkish officers stated that the title of this Commission proposed by them had been accepted by His Majesty's Government.

I replied that no orders on the subject had been received by me, and that I must therefore continue to use the title as set forth in my Commission, viz., "The Joint Commission for the demarcation of the line dividing the territory of the tribes in the vicinity of Aden with whom we have direct relations, from the dominions of His Imperial Majesty the Sultan of Turkey."

The question is of more importance than appears on the surface. The whole claims of Turkey on this frontier are based on the principle that all Arabia is indisputably subject to the Sultan, and it seems to me necessary to adopt a title that will show clearly that His Majesty's Government refuses to admit this claim.

The title proposed by the Turks is chosen obviously with a view of establishing this claim and of keeping up the fiction that the "nine cantons" are an integral part of the Sultan's dominions and will remain so in spite of the demarcation.

One of the objects of this Commission is to lay down a frontier extending to the desert on the north-east, which shall include Beda and Behan, and prevent any extension of Turkish influence into Hadramaut, and I have no doubt that the wording adopted by the Foreign Office in my Commission was expressly intended to include these districts; while that chosen by the Turks, may, if accepted by His Majesty's Government, make it extremely difficult to press our claims in that direction.

I have, &c.

(Signed) R. A. WAHAB, Colonel.

No. 363.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received December 19.)

Sir,

India Office, December 18, 1902.

I AM directed by Lord George Hamilton to acknowledge the receipt of Sir T. H. Sanderson's letter of the 11th instant, on the subject of a suggestion by Sir A. Hardinge that the Imperial Bank of Persia should be encouraged to start a branch in Seistan.

The question whether the Secretary of State for India would be prepared to consider whether any assistance could be given from Indian funds towards this project is one that

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can hardly be dealt with in the absence of any estimate of the assistance that might be required, and Lord George Hamilton, before consulting the Government of India as to the possibility of assisting the scheme from Indian revenues, would be glad to receive any information which Lord Lansdowne may have on the subject. His Lordship would also be glad to know whether, in the event of the scheme being regarded with favour by the Government of India, Lord Lansdowne would be prepared to recommend that a contribution should be made from Imperial revenues of a moiety of the assistance that might be required.

I am, &c.
(Signed) HORACE WALPOLE.

No. 364.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received December 19.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Lord George Hamilton, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, decypher of a telegram from the Viceroy, dated the 18th instant, respecting the Perso-Afghan frontier dispute.

India Office, December 18, 1902.

Inclosure in No. 364.

Government of India to Lord G. Hamilton.

(Telegraphic.) P.

December 18, 1902.

SEISTAN Arbitration: your telegram of the 15th instant.

The Ameer's Envoy reports that he has heard that His Highness' reply to my letter of the 24th November was being issued. If so, it should arrive shortly, and I think that it will be preferable to await its receipt before giving final instructions to Major McMahon.

No. 365.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received December 19.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Lord George Hamilton, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, decypher of a telegram from the Viceroy, dated the 18th instant, relative to the dispatch of troops to Seistan by the Persian Government.

India Office, December 19, 1902.

Inclosure in No. 365.

Government of India to Lord G. Hamilton.

(Telegraphic.) P.

December 18, 1902.

WITH reference to your telegram of the 31st October regarding Persian troops in Seistan, a report has been received from Major Benn, in a telegram dated the 7th instant, that 170 cavalry and 800 infantry from Kain and Meshed arrived in Seistan between the 19th October and the 4th instant. There is thus a large increase of the local force.

The Kain troops previously in Seistan, whom part of the new troops are professedly

to relieve, are supposed to be 500 strong, but would not exceed 100 on a liberal estimate of their actual strength, the remainder being absentees. It is naturally the desire of the local authorities to conceal this fact, but practically there are no troops to be relieved.

The force from Meshed is commanded by the Shuja-ul-Mulk, who gives out that the dispatch of the troops is due to the proceedings of the British in Seistan, as reported by the Russian Consul and the Belgian officials. He has drafted on the Governor for 8,000 maunds of wheat and 120,000 krans.

Seistan is suffering from famine prices, and much difficulty is experienced in procuring provisions for the British Consulate.

(Repeated to Tehran.)

No. 366.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received December 19.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Lord George Hamilton, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, decypher of a telegram from the Resident, Aden, dated the 18th instant, relative to the Aden delimitation.

India Office, December 19, 1902.

Inclosure in No. 366.

Resident, Aden, to Sir N. O'Connor.

(Telegraphic.) P.

Aden, December 18, 1902.

I HAVE received from Mr. Fitzmaurice following telegram, dated the 16th instant:—

"The reply to your Excellency's telegrams of the 11th and 12th is furnished in Colonel Wahab's telegram dated the 15th instant.

"In a written Minute of yesterday's proceedings the Turkish Commissioners declared that no orders had as yet been received by them to proceed by the direct road to Lakmat-ash-Shuab. As Colonel Wahab proposed in his letter of 8th November, it is essential that instructions be sent to them to proceed to the vicinity of Kataba, outside the disputed Amiri border.

"The British Commission proceed to the neighbourhood of Lakmat-ash-Shuab by the direct road."

No. 367.

Euphrates and Tigris Steam Navigation Company to Foreign Office.—(Received December 20.)

3, Salter's Hall Court, Cannon Street,

London, December 19, 1902.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 17th instant, and with reference to the third paragraph am desired by Mr. Lynch to state as follows:—

Mr. Lynch waited upon the Atabeg-i-Azam immediately upon his arrival in England, and also saw several of the high officials. Indeed he was with them during the whole period of the Shah's visit. He was informed confidentially that it would be next to impossible to obtain anything from the Atabeg, as his Highness would be questioned upon the subject during his passage through Russia. Mr. Lynch had several friendly interviews with his Highness, and the Persian text of the modifications in the Bank's Concession was at the disposal of his Highness from the first. But his Highness persistently evaded a discussion of the subject, putting it off from one day to the other.

On the evening of the 24th August (Sunday) it was found necessary to bring pressure upon his Highness, and an interview took place between the Atabeg, Sir Arthur Hardinge, Colonel Trench, and Mr. Lynch.

Mr. Lynch had in his possession the English text of the modifications, the Persian text being in the hands of the secretary of his Highness. The secretary could not at the moment be found, and it was necessary to put the matter through at once, as access was at that moment possible to His Majesty the Shah. His Highness dispatched Mr. Lynch's text to the Minister of Public Works, who made the translation into Persian. This translation was at once handed to His Majesty the Shah and received His Majesty's signature.

This is the document, a translation of which, duly attested by the Persian Legation, has already been communicated to the Foreign Office. It contains only two Articles, the other modifications being postponed for further discussion at Tehran. Mr. Lynch's text of the Article relating to caravan roads was altered in the translation, whether by design or through inadvertence is uncertain. It was impossible to reopen the question at the time, as the Shah and his Ministers left England on the following day. In order to lose no time Mr. Lynch addressed on that same day (the 25th August) the inclosed letter, with two inclosures marked A and B, to Sir Arthur Hardinge.

We trust that this explanation covers the point raised by you in the despatch under acknowledgment.

As regards the last paragraph of your despatch, I have the honour to state that it would be impossible at this stage to furnish any particulars as to the cost of constructing the Luristan caravan road. Owing to the present insecurity of the road it has not been properly surveyed. A useful comparison of the cost of such a road would be furnished by the road which we have already constructed between Ahwaz and Isfahan, particulars of which are in the possession of His Majesty's Government.

As regards the several roads between Kum and Isfahan, it would be our wish to obtain the necessary estimates this coming spring, if the necessary modifications could in the meantime be obtained.

I have, &c.
(Signed) FRANK BOTTOMLEY, *Acting Secretary.*

Inclosure in No. 367.

Mr. Lynch to Sir A. Hardinge of August 25, 1902, with Inclosures marked (A) and (B).

[Already printed.]

No. 368.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received December 20.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Lord George Hamilton, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of a telegram from the Resident, Aden, dated the 19th December, relative to the Aden delimitation.

India Office, December 20, 1902.

Inclosure in No. 368.

Resident, Aden, to Lord G. Hamilton.

(Telegraphic.) P. *Aden, December 19, 1902.*

I HAVE received from Colonel Wahab the following telegram, dated the 15th December:—

“With reference to the telegram from the Secretary of State to the Viceroy, dated the 25th November last, my specific demands for demarcation to the north-east have been rejected by the Turkish Commissioners. They allege that they have received orders from Constantinople to include in Turkish territory the Yaffai and Shaibi subdivisions of the Yaffai.

“These instructions issued by the Turkish Government appear to be opposed to the assurances that were given by them to the British Ambassador. It is admitted by them that orders have been received, not to demarcate, but to proceed in a north-easterly direction, and instead of making Lakhmat-ash-Shuab, in the north-east corner of Amiri territory, their starting point, to start from Dimna in the south-east, thence to proceed eastward till the Bana River is struck, to follow its course downwards from this point as far as the Bakhtizar border, and to go thence to the sea, leaving on the Turkish side all the Yaffai and the Aulaki.

“This scheme I refused to discuss. No starting point can be found for further demarcation, and the same acute controversy will be liable to arise on the north-east parts of the border, as in the case of the Amiri, so long as the Turks maintain their claims. Unless, in addition to the withdrawal of Turkish posts, the Amir of Dthali is free, as he was last year, to collect revenue from villages north of Jalele and from Mafare, the situation of 1901 cannot be restored.”

(Repeated to Government of Bombay and Constantinople.)

No. 369.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Hamid Bey.

THE Marquess of Lansdowne presents his compliments to the Turkish Chargé d'Affaires, and has the honour to inform him that a telegram, dated the 15th instant, has been received from the Resident at Aden in regard to the report received by the Porte from Abdullah Pasha and mentioned in Hamid Bey's note of the 30th ultimo, that the British Commissioners for the delimitation of the Aden Protectorate had gone to Lakhmet-es-Shub.

The Resident states that there is no foundation whatever for this statement, and that Colonel Wahab is still at Dthali.

Foreign Office, December 20, 1902.

No. 370.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir A. Hardinge.

(No. 68.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Foreign Office, December 21, 1902.

WITH reference to your telegram No. 78 of the 5th December:

I should wish you to ascertain if possible how much assistance would be probably required by the Imperial Bank of Persia towards the establishment of a branch in Seistan, as suggested.

No. 371.

Sir N. O'Connor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received December 22.)

(No. 543.)

My Lord,

Constantinople, December 16, 1902.

LIEUTENANT-COLONEL MAUNSELL has been good enough to prepare a handy map, which is very useful when studying the question of the frontier between the nine cantons and the Turkish dominions and to add some notes, and I do myself the honour to inclose both to your Lordship herewith.

I agree with Colonel Maunsell that our claims to the Humedi, Ahmedi, Mafari, Mihrabi and Azraki tribes seem unassailable, but this is hardly a reason for refusing to show our proofs to the Turks when the time comes, especially as there is little fear as to the result.

Colonel Maunsell is of opinion that His Majesty's Government should insist upon the Turks evacuating the enclave formed by their occupation of El Wabh, Haiar, Jelas, and Jaleli, but the task of persuading them to withdraw from these places, which they have continuously occupied since 1873, seems to me outside the legitimate scope of the present Commission, and likely, if raised at this moment, to lead to its breakdown altogether.

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They have withdrawn their troops from Lakmat-es-Saleh, and, as reported to your Lordship in my telegram No. 139 of the 12th instant, orders have been sent to the Turkish Commissioners to proceed to Lakmat-es-Shub, whence to proceed to delimitate the frontier north-eastwards.

My idea is to get through with this latter work as soon as possible and then proceed with the investigation of the western boundaries of the Amiri country, leaving for final consideration the frontier between the two Lakmats and the Turkish enclave running down to Jaleli.

I have, &c.
(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

Inclosure 1 in No. 371.

Memorandum by Lieutenant-Colonel Maunsell on suggested Frontier on the Dthala Plateau for the Aden Delimitation Commission.

THE frontier-line, as shown in green on the accompanying sketch map, is suggested as a basis on which the Commission should be instructed to work.

Minor deviations from this line could be settled by the Commissioners on the spot.

Starting from the Jebel Warwa up to Jebel Jihaf the suggested line follows that indicated in the Secretary of State's telegram of the 23rd May last, and also as shown on Colonel Wahab's blue print map (B) of country in this neighbourhood surveyed in 1902. It has the fault, as explained by Colonel Wahab, of dividing the area of the Humedi tribe into two, whereas it has been clearly proved that all their country has been tributary to the Amir for the last nine years.

The Commission might rectify this on the spot.

From Jebel Jihaf the suggested line would run down to Lakmat-es-Saleh, one of the four points recently claimed by us, and evacuated at our request by the Turks. From here, across the head of the Dthala Plateau, the direction of the line is that shown on Hunter's Map of 1880 (copy in the India Office), representing the extreme limit of the Amir's territory before the Turkish aggression of 1873. This would suggest itself as an equitable limit of the Amiri country to the north of the plateau.

From Lakmat-es-Saleh the line would run across to Minadi and thence to the high range above the Shaibai country, a convenient peak being found at or to the south-east of 7395.

Here again the line would approximate that suggested in the Secretary of States' telegram of the 23rd May last.

It would be a question for the Commission how much of the country near Lakmat-es-Shub should be exchanged for that evacuated by the Turks near Jaleli (including that place itself).

In Colonel Wahab's letter of the 27th January last (inclosure 4 in letter of the 7th March, from India Office to Foreign Office), he mentions that several villages west of Kataba pay regularly to the Amir, so that these would be given up also.

At the fifth sitting of the Commission, on the 13th March last (India Office letter of the 8th May), the Turks put forward their claims to the country of the Mibrabi, Mafari, Humedi, and Ahmadi.

Their proofs and documents were vague, and did not controvert the complete documentary evidence of revenue receipts, put forward by Colonel Wahab at the previous sittings.

Quite recently, at the sixth sitting, they appear to have claimed the Azraki in addition. Thus, it appears, their intention is to claim up to Wahab's red line of 1892, which we have now proved to be quite incorrect. The reason for this was the false information supplied to Colonel Wahab by the Aden native Agent, who appears to have been a traitor, in Turkish pay. No doubt, therefore, the Turks know exactly the line laid down on Colonel Wahab's 1892 survey, from information supplied by Mahomed Saleh, the man in question, and are now claiming up to that line.

This cannot be admitted for a moment, and our claims to all the tribes of Humedi, Ahmadi, Mafari, Mibrabi, and Azraki seem quite unassailable, and should not any longer be under discussion by the Commission, who should proceed to the neighbourhood of the green line and delimitate the actual boundary on that basis.

Colonel Wahab's letter of the 27th January mentions: "Amir has produced revenue receipts for several years back, which show that he has collected revenue regularly from many of the villages both Hunter's and my survey put down as Turkish, as well as

from the Mibrabi, Mafari, Humedi, and Ahmadi. There is no doubt that the Aden Residency were kept quite in the dark about this frontier by their late native Resident, and that both Hunter and my surveyors were misinformed as to the ownership of many of the frontier villages."

"The scoundrel (Mohamed Saleh) seems to have been, in fact, a Turkish agent."

It is of the greatest importance, from a strategical point of view, that the Turks should be induced to evacuate Jaleli, as that place commands the principal route from Aden to Sanaa, and constitutes an enclave in the heart of the Amiri country, likely to be a constant source of future trouble if left in their possession. It constitutes one of the last remnants of their aggression in 1873. They evacuated the remainder of the plateau in 1878, at the instance of our Government, and they should now be called upon to complete that evacuation.

(Signed) F. R. MAUNSELL, *Lieutenant-Colonel,
Military Attaché.*

Constantinople, December 9, 1902.

Inclosure 2 in No. 371.

Map by Lieutenant-Colonel Maunsell.

[Not printed.]

No. 372.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received December 22.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Lord George Hamilton, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of inclosure in a letter from the Foreign Secretary to the Government of India, dated the 27th November, relative to the Perso-Afghan boundary question.

India Office, December 20, 1902.

Inclosure in No. 372.

Government of India to Mr. des Graz.

Viceroy's Camp, Udaipur, November 16, 1902.

I AM directed to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch dated the 26th May last, with which you transmit the reply returned by the Persian Government to Sir A. Hardinge's note of the 6th April. In this reply the Persian Government intimate their willingness to depute an officer to meet an official of the British Government and to demarcate on the ground the portion of the boundary which remained undemarcated in 1896.

2. I am directed to request that you will be good enough to convey to the Government of His Majesty the Shah the thanks of the Government of India for their acceptance of the proposal of this Government, and to suggest that the Persian Government may be moved to depute their officer at a very early date to meet at Malik-i-Siah Koh the British officer. If the date on which the Persian officer can reach this place is communicated by telegram, the necessary orders will be issued to Major McMahon, C.S.I., C.I.E., Revenue Commissioner in Baluchistan, who has been selected by the Government of India as their representative. Owing to the advance of the cool season it is desirable that the two officers should meet as soon as possible, so that the delimitation of this portion of the frontier may be undertaken either before or after the inquiry into the disputes upon the Seistan border, for the settlement of which Major McMahon has also been appointed Arbitrator by the British Government.

No. 373.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received December 22.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Lord George Hamilton, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of inclosures in a letter from the Foreign Secretary to the Government of India, dated the 20th November, relative to affairs of Arabia.

Copy has been sent to the Intelligence Division, War Office.

India Office, December 20, 1902.

Inclosure 1 in No. 373.

Major Newmarch to Government of India.

Sir,

Bagdad, October 18, 1902.

I HAVE the honour to submit, for the information of the Government of India, a copy of a despatch, with inclosure, addressed to His Britannic Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople, regarding a fight which recently took place between the Aniza and Shammar Arabs near Karbala.

I have, &c.
(Signed) L. S. NEWMARCH, Major,
Officiating Political Resident in Turkish Arabia.

Inclosure 2 in No. 373.

Major Newmarch to Sir N. O'Connor.

(No. 435.)

Sir,

Bagdad, October 16, 1902.

I HAVE the honour to submit, for your Excellency's information, a report from our Consular Agent at Karbala, regarding a fight which took place in the neighbourhood of Karbala a few days ago between the Shammar and Aniza tribes of Arabs.

2. The cause of the fight is said to have been a dispute between these two tribes regarding some camels alleged to have been stolen by one from the other.

The latest rumours in Bagdad represent the fight to have been more serious than the Consular Agent's report would indicate, and I have heard from more than one source that about 80 persons were killed, and about 250 wounded in the engagement.

3. The Residency Surgeon, Captain Cox, D.S.O., who has lately been on a visit to Babylon, encountered some of these tribesmen on his journey at Museyib on the morning of the fight. His carriage was stopped by some armed Arabs, and when he attempted to drive past them they levelled their rifles at the carriage. Captain Cox fired a revolver over their heads, and this had the effect of making his assailants take cover and deterring any others from attacking him.

I have, &c.
(Signed) L. S. NEWMARCH.

Inclosure 3 in No. 373.

Ibrahim Khan to Major Newmarch.

(Translation.)

Karbala, October 13, 1902.

THERE is an Arab tribe called Masaood living midway between Museyib and Karbala. The Aniza tribe is in the habit of coming annually about this time of the year from different parts and halting in the environs of Karbala. A few months ago, a branch of the Shammar tribe and followers of Ibn Reshid came and made their halt

near the Masaood tribe. In previous years it had not been customary for them to settle there, and as now the Aniza tribe has come, a skirmish has taken place, during the last two or three days between the Aniza and Masaood, and the Shammar tribe is affording assistance to the latter. Both parties have lost some men and some mares.

The Mutasarif of Karbala having informed the Wilaiat of Baghdad, a cavalry detachment consisting of 140 sabres arrived to-day from Hilla, and it is said that the Mushir Pasha will arrive here to-day. It is also said that the Mushir Pasha will spend to-night at Museyib, and will come to Karbala to-morrow to make peace between them.

No. 374.

Sir A. Hardinge to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received December 22.)

(No. 80.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Tehran, December 22, 1902.

INCREASE of Persian troops in Seistan reported in the telegram from the Government of India of the 18th instant.

I spoke to the Grand Vizier on the subject, and he expressed his surprise at the information. He promised to procure from the War Office exact particulars as to the numbers, but thought that Major Benn must be misinformed. He added that there was no ground for increasing the Persian force on the frontier, as the dispute seemed likely to be settled by the rise in the Helmund.

The Russian Legation is, I am informed, making attempts to associate in some way with the settlement of the Perso-Afghan boundary a Russian Representative, or, should it not succeed in this, to prevent our arbitrating in the dispute.

Perhaps the explanation of the anxiety of the Persian Government to avoid the arbitration, on the ground that the dispute is now at an end, is to be found in these attempts on the part of the Russians.

No. 375.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Hamid Bey.

THE Marquess of Lansdowne presents his compliments to the Turkish Chargé d'Affaires, and has the honour to inform him that a telegram has been received from the Resident at Aden in regard to the complaint made in Hamid Bey's note of the 18th ultimo of attacks by the Subaihi, a tribe in the British Protectorate near Aden, on the Hakim tribe in the Turkish district of Mokha.

The Resident states that no organized attack was made by the Subaihi on the Hakim, but that the son of one of the Sheikhs of the Atifi clan of the Subaihi, who is an outlaw, accompanied by three or four others, fired upon the village of Debal, killing one man. The village was not burnt and no pillage of goods took place. The Sheikh has been warned that he must take effective measures to prevent the occurrence of such attacks in future.

Foreign Office, December 22, 1902.

No. 376.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir N. O'Connor.

(No. 372.)

Sir,

Foreign Office, December 22, 1902.

I HAVE received your Excellency's despatch No. 539 of the 9th instant, reporting a conversation with the Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs, in the course of which you urged that the Sheikh installed by the Turkish authorities at

Lakhmat-es-Salah should be removed, and that the Turkish Commissioners should be instructed to proceed with the delimitation and not to delay the work by referring to the Porte for instructions on unimportant points.

The language which you held to Tewfik Pasha is approved.

I am, &c.
(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

No. 377.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir N. O'Connor.

(No. 373.)

Sir,

Foreign Office, December 22, 1902.

I HAVE received your Excellency's despatch No. 518 of the 29th ultimo, inclosing a report by His Majesty's Vice-Consul at Hodeidah on the proceedings of the Italian squadron which visited that port in October to obtain redress for piratical acts committed by Turkish subjects.

I request that you will convey to Mr. Richardson my approval of the steps which he took for the protection of British subjects and their property, in the event of a bombardment of Hodeidah by the Italian squadron.

I am, &c.
(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

No. 378.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received December 23.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Lord George Hamilton, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of a telegram to the Viceroy, dated the 19th December, relative to the Aden delimitation.

India Office, December 22, 1902.

Inclosure in No. 378.

Lord G. Hamilton to the Government of India.

(Telegraphic.) P.

India Office, December 19, 1902.

PLEASE refer to the telegram from the Resident, Aden, dated the 16th December. As to subsidy to the Upper Yafai, the better course would be, pending final delimitation, to offer them an immediate payment for allowing the Commission to enter their territory, the grant of a Protectorate Treaty to the tribe, as to which see my Secret despatch No. 38, dated the 5th September last, being reserved for consideration until fuller information is available, on the conclusion of the proceedings of the Commission. Please issue instructions accordingly to the Resident. Lord Lansdowne concurs.

No. 379.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received December 23.)

Sir,

India Office, December 22, 1902.

IN continuation of the letter from this Office of the 18th instant, and with reference to previous correspondence, relating to the Seistan boundary dispute, I am directed by Lord George Hamilton to forward, for the information of the Marquess of Lansdowne, a copy of a telegram from the Viceroy, dated the 19th instant, referring to this subject.

It will be seen that the Ameer of Afghanistan has assented to the arbitration, has given permission to the Arbitrator to proceed by Kwaja Ali and the Helmund route, and has nominated the Akhundzada as the Afghan Commissioner. In these

circumstances Lord George Hamilton agrees with the Government of India in thinking it desirable that the arbitration should proceed; and, if Lord Lansdowne concurs, would suggest that His Britannic Majesty's Minister at Tehran (to whom it appears that this telegram has not been repeated) should be informed accordingly.

I am, &c.
(Signed) HORACE WALPOLE.

Inclosure in No. 379.

Government of India to Lord G. Hamilton.

(Telegraphic.) P.

December 19, 1902.

A LETTER from the Ameer, dated the 9th December, has been received to-day, about the Seistan boundary. His Highness says that his desire is to spare us the expense and trouble involved in a Mission on such a matter. Since, however, it is regarded by us as necessary, he intends to assist and arrange for the passage of the Mission by the Kwaja Ali and Helmund route, and in addition will furnish supplies. As Afghan Commissioner he nominates the Akhundzada. I propose that we should accept the offer without delay, and issue to Major McMahon instructions to start. It is impossible to allow the Persian Government to back out, after inviting our assistance. The Mission is more valuable as demonstrating Anglo-Afghan cordiality and in providing an opportunity for obtaining full information about the Helmund route and the lower course of that river than as effecting a settlement in Seistan.

No. 380.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received December 23.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Lord George Hamilton forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, decypher of a telegram from the Resident, Aden, dated the 22nd December, relative to the Aden delimitation.

India Office, December 23, 1902.

Inclosure in No. 380.

Resident, Aden, to Government of Bombay.

(Telegraphic.) P.

December 22, 1902.

AS Aden Sheikhs are expected at Dthala early in January, I shall be glad to have early reply to my proposal, telegraphed on 16th, to give them assurances. If these be not given, Wahab repeats his conviction that any movement through their country will be opposed. It is very desirable that I should be authorized to give the assurances which they desire.

(Repeated to Secretary of State and Constantinople.)

No. 381.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received December 23.)

Sir,

India Office, December 23, 1902.

IN returning the papers noted in the margin,* and received unofficially from the Foreign Office, I am directed by the Secretary of State for India in Council to say

* Draft telegram to Sir A. Hardinge, with Minutes.

that his Lordship in Council has no remarks or suggestions to make regarding the draft of a telegram which the Marquess of Lansdowne proposes to send to Sir Arthur Hardinge on the subject of the Russo-Persian Commercial Tariff.

I am, &c.
(Signed) HORACE WALPOLE.

No. 382.

Admiralty to Foreign Office.—(Received December 23.)

(Confidential.)

Sir, *Admiralty, December 23, 1902.*
I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to transmit, for the information of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, decypher of a telegram dated the 23rd instant, from the Commander-in-chief, Mediterranean, relative to Hodeidah.

I am, &c.
(Signed) EVAN MACGREGOR.

[Inclosure in No. 382.]

Admiral Sir C. Domville to Admiralty.

(Telegraphic.) P.

Malta, December 23, 1902.

I HAVE approved of "Harrier" changing head-quarters to Camaran, owing to harbour of Hodeidah being exposed to prevailing south winds. Consul at Hodeidah also moves to Camaran during the pilgrimage season.

No. 383.

Sir A. Hardinge to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received December 23.)

(No. 81.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Tehran, December 23, 1902.

WITH reference to your Lordship's telegram No. 68 of the 21st instant relative to the proposal to open a branch of the Imperial Bank in Seistan, the Acting Manager, whom I have consulted, intimating that the suggestion comes from me so as not to commit His Majesty's Government to it, has informed me that he can give me no information as to the amount of assistance which would be necessary. He has, however, telegraphed to his London Directors on the subject.

No. 384.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir A. Hardinge.

(No. 13. Commercial.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Foreign Office, December 23, 1902.

OUR legal advisers have given us conflicting advice as to the effect of the arrangement come to between Persia and Turkey on the 5th September last upon the question as to whether the ancient Treaties between Persia and Turkey are still valid, as between Egypt and Persia.

I communicated to His Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople your Memorandum of the 7th October last, and his Excellency is of opinion that an application to the Ottoman Government to reject the new Persian Tariff, on the ground of common policy and interests, would not induce them to adopt a course which they would think harmful to Turkish trade for the sake of benefiting British and Indian commercial interests in Persia, and that it would be still less possible to request the Porte to enforce the rejection by threatening to denounce the whole of the Erzeroum Treaties.

The only course open to us would seem to be for you to use your best endeavours to persuade the Persian Government to come to a direct arrangement with His Majesty's Government, modifying in our favour the most objectionable features of the new Tariff.

No. 385.

Sir A. Hardinge to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received December 24.)

(Commercial.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Tehran, December 24, 1902.

WITH reference to your Lordship's Commercial telegram of the 23rd instant, I doubt whether it will be possible to persuade the Persian Government to introduce any modifications in the new Tariff to oblige His Majesty's Government. Their financial difficulties are such that it is more probable that they will, in the course of a year or two, increase the import duties on British products with the object of providing security for a further Russian loan, and the temptation to adopt this course of action will be very great should we agree to the present Tariff, and thus debar ourselves from making a legal protest at a subsequent date.

The raising of the legal question appears to me to give His Majesty's Government their only chance of making the Persian Government listen to them, as such a protest may alarm them, particularly if they think that the coming into operation of the Tariff may be thereby delayed. If our legal case is weak, we might then propose to accept the present Tariff, if slightly modified, on the condition that the Persian Government engage not to further increase the duties without first obtaining our consent.

A telegram from Constantinople, published in the "Times" newspaper of the 18th November last, gives the substance of the Sultan's Iradé embodying the new Convention with Persia, and suggests that the specific duties of the Treaty of Turcomanchai are mentioned in it. This might be of use to us, but what His Majesty's Government need to obtain is that when accepting the new Tariff the Turkish Government should make a declaration formally reserving its rights under the Treaties of Erzeroum, and should thus prevent the latter from being held to have expired or lapsed. It is as much to the interest of the Turkish Government as of His Majesty's Government that this should be done, and we can surely ask them to do this much in view of the promise made by the Grand Vizier to Sir N. O'Connor to repair Tewfik Pasha's error.

No. 386.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir A. Hardinge.

(No. 69.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Foreign Office, December 24, 1902.

PERSO-AFGHAN Boundary Commission.

A letter, dated the 9th instant, has been received by the Viceroy of India from the Ameer of Afghanistan, nominating the Akhundzada as Afghan Commissioner and promising to make arrangements for passage of British Mission via Kwaja Ali and Helmand route, and also to furnish it with supplies.

In the opinion of the Viceroy, the Persian Government, after inviting our assistance, should not be allowed to back out. His Excellency considers the Mission valuable, not so much as effecting a settlement in Seistan as in showing cordiality between the Ameer of Afghanistan and His Majesty's Government, and as a means of obtaining information about the Helmand.

His Majesty's Government have approved Viceroy's proposal to accept Ameer's offer at once and to instruct the British Commissioner to start on his mission.

Please inform the Persian Government of the arrangements which have been made.

No. 387.

Foreign Office to India Office.

(Confidential.)

Sir,

Foreign Office, December 24, 1902.

I HAVE laid before the Marquess of Lansdowne your letter of the 22nd instant transmitting a copy of a telegram from the Viceroy of India, in which his Excellency reports that the Ameer of Afghanistan has agreed to the proposed arbitration on the Seistan boundary question, and has nominated a Commissioner.

I am directed by Lord Lansdowne to inform you that he concurs in the view of the Secretary of State for India that it is desirable that the arbitration should proceed.

I am to transmit to you a copy of a telegram which Lord Lansdowne has addressed to His Majesty's Minister at Tehran on the subject.*

I am, &c.

(Signed) T. H. SANDERSON.

No. 388.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received December 25.)

Sir,

India Office, December 24, 1902.

I AM directed by the Secretary of State for India to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 17th December, inclosing a copy of a note from the Turkish Chargé d'Affaires, dated the 13th December, on the subject of the Aden delimitation, stating that British soldiers recently occupied the places evacuated by the Turkish troops, but were compelled to retire owing to the hostile attitude of the inhabitants.

The note gives no particulars either of the time or place of the acts complained of, and similar allegations recently made have proved to be without foundation. Lord George Hamilton, therefore, is not inclined to telegraph to Aden on the subject, but, if Lord Lansdowne concurs, will communicate the papers to the Resident by post and instruct him to furnish a Report, likewise by post, unless for any reason there are facts which make it advisable, in his opinion, to telegraph a reply.

I am, &c.

(Signed) HORACE WALPOLE.

No. 389.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received December 25.)

Sir,

India Office, December 24, 1902.

I AM directed by the Secretary of State for India to forward, for the information of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, the inclosed copy of a telegram from the Resident at Aden on the subject of the delimitation.

The instructions which the Turkish Commissioners state they have received are so inconsistent with the assurances previously given by the Turkish Government that Lord George Hamilton is inclined to think that, if they are not disavowed, it will be necessary again to consider the question of acting on the warning addressed to the Turkish Minister of Foreign Affairs by Sir N. O'Connor, as reported in his despatch No. 411 of the 18th September last, to the effect that His Majesty's Government may be compelled to take their own measures for the delimitation of the whole frontier.

I am, &c.

(Signed) HORACE WALPOLE.

* No. 386.

Inclosure in No. 389.

Resident, Aden, to Lord G. Hamilton.

(Telegraphic.) P.

Aden, December 19, 1902.

I HAVE received from Colonel Wahab the following telegram, dated the 15th December:—

"With reference to the telegram from the Secretary of State to the Viceroy, dated the 25th November, 1902, my specific demands for demarcation to the north-east have been rejected by the Turkish Commissioners. They allege that they have received orders from Constantinople to include in Turkish territory the Yaffai and Shaibi subdivisions of the Yaffai. These instructions issued by the Turkish Government appear to be opposed to the assurances that were given by them to the British Ambassador. It is admitted by them that orders have been received, not to demarcate, but to proceed in a north-easterly direction, and instead of making Lakhmat-ash-Shuab, in the north-east corner of Amiri territory, their starting point, to start from Dimna in the south-east, thence to proceed eastward till the Bana River is struck, to follow its course downwards from this point as far as the Bakhtizar border, and to go thence to the sea, leaving on the Turkish side all the Yaffai and the Aulaki. This scheme I refused to discuss. No starting point can be found for further demarcation, and the same acute controversy will be liable to arise on the north-east parts of the border, as in the case of the Amiri, so long as the Turks maintain their claims. Unless, in addition to the withdrawal of Turkish posts, the Amir of Dthali is free, as he was last year, to collect revenue from villages north of Jalele and from Mafare, the situation of 1901 cannot be restored."

(Repeated to Government of Bombay and to Constantinople.)

No. 390.

The Euphrates and Tigris Steam Navigation Company to Foreign Office.—(Received December 25.)

3, Salter's Hall Court, Cannon Street, London,
December 24, 1902.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 5th instant, having reference to future Customs arrangements on the Karun.

The purport of your letter was communicated by telegram to our agents abroad.

Referring to the last paragraph—reading, "Sir A. Hardinge explains that the Persian Government would be willing to establish a custom-house either at Ahwaz or Shuster, but not at both places; he understands that it would be most convenient to merchants that the custom-house should be at Ahwaz"—our agents have replied by telegram to the effect that, should not a custom-house be established at Shuster as well as at Ahwaz, the consequences will be most disastrous to the river service and to all interests on the Upper Karun.

A large majority of the Shuster merchants have no agents at Ahwaz. These merchants would necessarily require to deal with the Customs authorities direct.

The point is one of such vital importance to the Karun service, and to its development, that I am instructed respectfully to beg that a telegram be sent to His Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at Tehran desiring him to request an immediate revival of the custom-house at Shuster, or that, at any rate, arrangements be made which would secure the collection of customs on goods at the port of destination.

We may add that our agents telegraph that local officials at Mohammerah strongly recommend custom-house establishments at both places, Ahwaz and Shuster.

I have, &c.

(Signed) FRANK BOTTOMLEY,
Acting Secretary.

No. 391.

Sir N. O'Connor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received December 26.)

(No. 144.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Constantinople, December 26, 1902.

YOUR Lordship's telegram No. 188 of the 19th instant.

As the Porte's note of the 1st November automatically includes Yaffai in British zone, and in view of their repeated assurances, I see no objection from Constantinople standpoint, to the conclusion of a Protectorate Treaty with Sheikh if his fidelity is not sufficiently secured by a subsidy. I have not, however, received Resident's telegram of the 16th, to which he refers in his telegram of the 19th.

With reference to Colonel Wahab's telegram of the 15th, communicated in Resident's telegram of the 19th to India Office: Porte is much disturbed at revelations respecting Turkish Commissioner's attitude contained therein. Grand Vizier agreed when I described them as scandalous.

No. 392.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir N. O'Connor.

(No. 37. Commercial.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Foreign Office, December 26, 1902.

I HAVE telegraphed to Sir A. Hardinge that our legal advisers have given us conflicting opinions as to whether we can claim that the ancient Treaties between Persia and Turkey remain in force as between Egypt and Persia in spite of the Arrangement of the 5th September.

I have also communicated to him your Excellency's opinion, contained in your despatch No. 199, Commercial, of the 4th instant, that it would serve no useful purpose to make an application to the Ottoman Government to reject the new Persian Tariff. I am repeating to you Sir A. Hardinge's reply.

You are authorised to make a communication to the Grand Vizier in the terms suggested by Sir A. Hardinge, unless you see any objections to so doing.

No. 393.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir A. Hardinge.

(No. 70.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Foreign Office, December 26, 1902.

KARUN Customs.

I communicated to Messrs. Lynch your telegram No. 76 of the 3rd instant. After communication with their agents, they represent that the consequences will be disastrous to the river service and all interests on the Upper Karun unless a custom-house is established at Shuster as well as Ahwaz, and that the majority of merchants at Shuster, having no agents at Ahwaz, would be compelled to deal direct with Customs authorities.

Messrs. Lynch also urge that the custom-house at Shuster should be immediately revived, or, at any rate, that arrangements should be made by which collection of customs at port of destination will be secured.

No. 394.

*Foreign Office to India Office.**Foreign Office, December 26, 1902.*

Sir,

I AM directed by the Marquess of Lansdowne to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 24th instant, relative to the complaint of the Turkish Chargé d'Affaires

that British soldiers recently occupied the places evacuated by the Turkish troops near the frontier of the Aden Protectorate.

I am to inform you that Lord Lansdowne concurs in the course which Lord G. Hamilton proposes to take in regard to this complaint.

I am, &c.
(Signed)

T. H. SANDERSON.

No. 395.

Hamid Bey to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received December 27.)

LE Chargé d'Affaires de Turquie présente ses compliments au Marquis de Lansdowne, et a l'honneur de porter, de la part de son Gouvernement, à la haute connaissance de sa Seigneurie que, d'après une communication de son Altesse le Grand Vizir, basée sur un télégramme du Gouverneur-Général intérimaire du Yémen, les informations reçues au Foreign Office au sujet de la prise de possession par des Arabes armés des localités abandonnées par les troupes Impériales manquent d'exactitude, et que la situation ne justifie en aucune façon l'appel des troupes des Indes dans ces parages, d'autant plus que les recommandations nécessaires ont été faites de nouveau à son Excellence Abdullah Pacha pour éviter tout incident.

*Ambassade Impériale de Turquie, Londres,
le 27 Décembre, 1902.*

No. 396.

Hamid Bey to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received December 27.)

LE Chargé d'Affaires de Turquie présente ses compliments au Marquis de Lansdowne, et a l'honneur de porter, de la part de son Gouvernement, les faits suivants à la haute connaissance de sa Seigneurie:—

Un voilier battant pavillon Britannique, venu à l'île de Farsana, a voulu détruire à coups de canon un sambouk sous le prétexte qu'il y aurait été abandonné par les pirates de la tribu Hakiami, et que depuis quelques jours un bâtiment de guerre Anglais se trouvait dans les parages de Djizan.

Hamid Bey a pour devoir de faire observer que la police à exercer dans les eaux ou sur le littoral d'un pays appartenant aux autorités territoriales cette attitude des bâtiments de guerre ou autres anglais est contraire aux usages internationaux.

En signalant ce cas à sa Seigneurie, le Chargé d'Affaires la prie de bien vouloir faire transmettre à qui de droit les ordres nécessaires pour que de pareils faits ne se renouvellent plus, d'autant plus que, d'après une communication du Vali intérimaire du Yémen, deux des brigands qui avaient tiré des coups de feu sur le navire Anglais à Hor-el-Wahlé ont été arrêtés, et que d'actives poursuites sont exercées pour capturer leurs complices, et qu'en outre le Commandant du "Spidy" a déjà exprimé aux autorités Ottomanes sa satisfaction pour le résultat obtenu.

*Ambassade Impériale de Turquie, Londres,
le 27 Décembre, 1902.*

No. 397.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received December 27.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Lord George Hamilton, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of a telegram from the Resident, Aden, dated the 23rd December, relative to the Yaffai subsidy.

India Office, December 27, 1902.

Inclosure in No. 397.

Resident, Aden, to Government of Bombay.

(Telegraphic.) P. *Aden, December 23, 1902.*
 I AM consulting Colonel Wahab in reference to proposed subsidy to Upper Yaffai.
 (Repeated to Secretary of State.)

No. 398.

Sir N. O'Connor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received December 27.)

(No. 62. Commercial.) *Constantinople, December 27, 1902.*
 (Telegraphic.) P.
 YOUR Lordship's telegram No. 37, Commercial, of the 26th instant.
 It is doubtful, even if Turkey denounces arrangement of the 5th September, whether she can revert to Erzeroum Treaties.
 I might call upon Grand Vizier to fulfil his promise reported in my despatch No. 145, Commercial, of the 19th September, by at once informing the Persian Government that the most-favoured-nation treatment, stipulated by the Arrangement of the 5th September, is considered by the Porte to be the most-favoured-nation treatment at the time of the exchange of notes, viz., the 5 per cent. *ad valorem* under the Turcomanchai Treaty, and that in the event of any change in the Tariff Turkey reserves the right of accepting or refusing it.
 This is the best suggestion I can make, but I cannot, of course, say that Turkey will be ready to take such a measure.

No. 399.

Sir A. Hardinge to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received December 27.)

(No. 82.) *Tehran, December 27, 1902.*
 (Telegraphic.) P.
 KARUN Customs.
 Your Lordship's telegram No. 70 of the 26th instant.
 Customs agents at Mohammerah are alleged by Messrs. Lynch to favour the establishment of a custom-house at Shuster as well as Ahwaz.
 M. Naus has telegraphed to them to ascertain their views on the subject. He, however, demurs to the heavy additional expense which his Department would incur.
 (Confidential.)
 Consul-General Preece, who is at present in Tehran and who has considerable local knowledge, regards as excessive the demand for the revival of the custom-house at Shuster. Mr. Richards is also of the same opinion.

No. 400.

Sir A. Hardinge to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received December 29.)

(No. 160.) *Tehran, November 19, 1902.*
 My Lord,
 I ASKED the Mushir-ed-Dowleh to-day whether there was any foundation for a report which had reached me, to the effect that a Concession had been given to a Russian Company for the construction of a carriage road from Kazvin to Hamadan and Kermanshah, and that the work had already been begun at the Kazvin end.

His Excellency replied that the Concession given some years ago for the construction of a road from Resht to Kazvin and Tehran contained a provision for the construction, within a definite period, of a branch from Kazvin to Hamadan, but not for its extension to Kermanshah, and he had no reason to believe that any such further extension was now contemplated.

No alteration to that effect had, so far as he was aware, been made in the terms of the original Concession.

I have, &c.
 (Signed) ARTHUR H. HARDINGE.

No. 401.

Sir A. Hardinge to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received December 29.)

(No. 161.) *Tehran, November 19, 1902.*
 My Lord,
 I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith a copy of a despatch which I have just addressed to the Government of India on the subject of the settlement recently effected between the Governor-General of Kerman and the Political Agent, Kalat, of questions arising out of raids on the borders of British and Persian Beluchistan.
 Your Lordship will observe that I have taken advantage of this settlement to give effect to the instructions contained in your despatch of the 30th September, respecting the British Agency at Bampur.

I have, &c.
 (Signed) ARTHUR H. HARDINGE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 401.

Sir A. Hardinge to Government of India.

Tehran, November 17, 1902.
 Sir,
 I ADDRESSED, on the 15th ultimo, a note to the Persian Government, in the sense of your despatch to Mr. des Graz of the 15th September, respecting the arrangements arrived at between the Political Agent, Kalat, and the Governor-General of Kerman for the pacification of the borders between British and Persian Beluchistan.
 I took advantage of the opportunity which this communication afforded me to add a paragraph, a copy of which I have the honour to inclose herewith, on the subject of the British Agency at Bampur, thus giving effect to instructions received by me from the Marquess of Lansdowne, and, I hope, indirectly assisting his Excellency the Ala-ul-Mulk, whose administration of the Government of Kerman has been marked by great friendliness to our interests.

I have, &c.
 (Signed) A. HARDINGE.

Inclosure 2 in No. 401.

Extract from Note of the 15th November to Mushir-ed-Dowleh.

THERE remains one question connected with our frontier relations in Beluchistan, viz., the establishment of a British Agency at Bampur. I pointed out, while in England, the objections entertained by His Majesty the Shah to this proposal, and I am now directed by Lord Lansdowne to inform your Excellency that, out of deference for the personal sentiments of His Imperial Majesty, the British Government have

decided for the present not to insist on their Treaty rights in this matter, but that they expect, in return for this concession, that the authorities in Persian Beluchistan will avoid any action which might lead to a re-opening of the question. I think I may assure your Excellency that the vigorous and assertive action of his Excellency the Ala-ul-Mulk in assisting in the repression of the rebel Chiefs who disturbed our frontier, and in arranging for their payment of the blood-money due by them, has made it easier for my Government to meet the wish expressed by you to me in regard to the Agent at Bampur, and I hope that the maintenance of the present cordial relations now established between the authorities on either side of the Beluch border may render it unnecessary for me to bring this matter again before you.

No. 402.

Sir A. Hardinge to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received December 29.)

(No. 163.)

My Lord,

Tehran, November 24, 1902.

I HAVE the honour to report that Mr. Wood and Mr. New, of the Indo-European Telegraph Department, are just leaving for Kashan to commence work on the new Central Persia telegraph line.

I understand that it has not been definitely decided whether after leaving Bam, or rather Bazman, the new line should run in an easterly direction and enter Beluchistan, near Ladis or Mirjawa, and thence continue parallel to the Seistan-Nushki route to Quetta, or whether it should proceed in a south-easterly direction till it strikes our frontier at some point in the neighbourhood of Kuhak, and be carried thence to Kurrachee. Mr. Wood informs me that the latter is of purely technical as distinct from political grounds the one which he himself would be inclined to favour.

From a political point of view, I would venture to think it preferable that the more northerly route should be followed, for the following reasons:—

1. The distance for which the line would traverse Persian territory would be less, thus lessening the responsibilities of this weak Government for its protection and the occasions for frictions and difficulties in this connection between it and ourselves.

2. The portion of Persian Beluchistan traversed is less populated, being, in fact, for a large part of the way a desert, and at the same time less turbulent than the districts round Kuhak and Megas, which are inhabited by very lawless tribes.

3. The Shah would probably, for these reasons, prefer the adoption of the northern to the southern route. When I negotiated the Convention last year, His Imperial Majesty's objections were largely based on the wild character of the portion of his dominions which the line would have to traverse.

4. If the line entered our territory at or near Mirjawa, it could be made to subserve the purposes of the Nushki-Seistan route, and it would cost comparatively little to extend it from Mirjawa to Kuh-i-Malik Siah, and thence connect it with Nasretabad. This would be more difficult if it swerved south-east from Bazman to Bampur and Kuhak. An English telegraph line is, moreover, a political influence, and the further north into the Sarhad in the direction of Seistan such an influence can be extended, in the presence of the activity of Russian agents in that region, the better.

I explained these views when in London to Mr. Kirk, the new Head of the Indo-European Telegraph Department in the India Office, but it may be convenient that I should place them officially on record for such consideration as they may seem to your Lordship to deserve.

I have, &c.

(Signed) ARTHUR H. HARDINGE.

No. 403.

Sir A. Hardinge to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received December 25.)

(No. 164.)

My Lord,

Tehran, November 30, 1902.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith a copy of the Russian Loan Contract, signed at St. Petersburg in April last, which has been confidentially communicated to me by the Atabeg-i-Azam, in accordance with the promise made to me by his Highness at the moment of his departure for Europe. He informed my interpreter, whom I sent for a few days ago, that he had instructed Mushir-ed-Dowleh to have it ready for me on my arrival here, but that his Excellency had apparently forgotten to do so.

A comparison of this document with the first Loan Contract, a copy of which accompanied my despatch No. 186 of the 9th December last, shows it to be an almost exact reproduction of the latter, the only differences of any importance, save the necessary ones of dates and figures, being: (1) the provision that the revenues of any future as were of all existing custom-houses are to be affected to the repayment of the loan (Article 4); (2) that for the making of the advances to the Persian Government in part in krans, minted at St. Petersburg, and by instalments, the dates of which are to be fixed by subsequent agreement (Article 7); and (3) the insertion in Article 9 of a clause, the effect of which is to interpret the earlier Loan Contract as prohibiting the Persian Government not only from "issuing" (émettre), but from "contracting" (contracter) any foreign loan "à longue échéance" without the consent of Russia.

The payment of the money in gradual instalments, spread over the Shah's European tour, accounts for the repeated rumours here, both of fresh advances, subsequent to the main loan, and of an intention on the part of M. de Witte to further strengthen his hold on the Persian Government by doling the loan itself out in small dribblets, but both the Grand Vizier and M. Naus assure me that all these stories are fabrications, and that the whole amount of the loan, i.e., 7,000,000 roubles, has already been paid into the Persian Treasury. I have abstained for the present from making any indelicate inquiries as to how much of it remains, but the general feeling here is that practically none of it is left. The Persians in fact say that the Shah had to borrow money at Baku from the Armenian trader Toumaniantz, in order to get back to Persia, and that huge piles of cases containing His Majesty's Parisian purchases are still lying in the warehouses at Enzelli for want of money to pay for camels to bring them up. The only one which may be expected shortly is a military balloon ordered by the Shah from France since his return to Tehran, and which, if navigated by its own private aeronaut, may, perhaps, arrive here independently of animal transport.

I have, &c.

(Signed) ARTHUR H. HARDINGE.

Inclosure in No. 403.

Russian Loan Contract, signed at St. Petersburg, April 1902.

ENTRE les soussignés, son Excellence Mirza Hassan Khan, (Mushir-ul-Mulk), Envoyé Extraordinaire et Ministre Plénipotentiaire de Sa Majesté le Schah de Perse d'une part, et la Banque d'Escompte de Perse d'autre part, il a été convenu et arrêté ce qui suit:—

Article 1^{er}. En vertu d'un Firman de Sa Majesté le Schah de Perse, en date du 20 Zilhadja, 1319 (18 (31) Mars, 1902), le Gouvernement Persan procédera à l'émission d'un Emprunt d'Etat d'un montant nominal de 10,000,000 de roubles (1 rouble = $\frac{1}{15}$ Impérial), contenant 17 doli 424 millièmes de dola d'or fin, d'après la Loi Monétaire du 7 (19) [sic], 1899).

Cet emprunt portera un intérêt de 5 pour cent sur le capital nominal et recevra la dénomination de "l'Emprunt Persan 5 pour Cent Or de 1902."

Il sera remboursable en soixante-quinze ans.

Art. 2. La Banque d'Escompte de Perse s'engage à prendre ferme et prend ferme par le fait seul de la signature du présent Contrat "l'Emprunt Persan 5 pour Cent Or de 1902" d'un montant nominal de 10,000,000 roubles, au prix de 86 $\frac{2}{3}$ pour cent du capital nominal,

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sous déductions de 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ pour cent destinés à couvrir les frais d'émission, timbre, confection de titre, &c., soit au prix net de 85 pour cent ou 8,500,000 roubles, plus les intérêts courus.

Art. 3. Il sera créé par le Gouvernement Persan pour le montant total de "l'Emprunt Persan 5 pour Cent Or de 1902," une obligation générale, libellée en Russe et en Persan, qui sera munie des signatures légales Persanes. Cette obligation sera délivrée à l'Administration de la Banque d'Escompte de Perse, à Saint-Petersbourg, qui la déposera jusqu'à son amortissement définitif à la Banque d'Etat de Russie.

Art. 4. "L'Emprunt Persan 5 pour Cent Or de 1902" a pour garantie les mêmes revenus de douane que "l'Emprunt Persan 5 pour Cent Or de 1900," savoir les revenus de toutes les Douanes de Perse, à l'exception de celles de Fars et des ports du Golfe Persique. Par revenus des douanes sont entendus les revenus des douanes existantes (douanes du Gouvernement, et douanes données en fermage), ainsi que des douanes qui seraient établies à l'avenir.

Il est expressément entendu que le présent Emprunt Persan 5 pour Cent Or de 1900 a le droit de priorité absolue sur toute autre créance, sur les produits d'une partie ou de la totalité des douanes Persanes susmentionnées pouvant découler de contrats quelconques, antérieurs, présents, ou à venir.

Art. 5. La totalité des revenus des douanes Persanes sus-indiquées (Article 4) sera versée à la Banque d'Escompte de Perse qui prélèvera sur ces revenus l'annuité semestrielle dans le délai prévu de soixante-quinze ans, soit 2,563,123 pour cent du capital nominal, plus $\frac{1}{4}$ pour cent de commissions de guichet sur l'annuité susmentionnée, soit 256,953 roubles 10 copecks par semestre à partir du 1^{er} Juillet, 1902.

Art. 6. Si les revenus versés à la Banque d'Escompte de Perse dépassaient le montant de 1,670,194-20 roubles par an (1,156,288 roubles sur l'Emprunt 1900, et 513,906-20 roubles sur l'Emprunt 1902), l'excédent serait mis à la disposition du Trésor Persan.

Dans le cas où, à une échéance semestrielle quelconque, les versements du Gouvernement de Sa Majesté le Schah de Perse n'atteindraient pas la dite somme, le Gouvernement reconnaît et accorde par le présent Contrat à la Banque d'Escompte de Perse le droit d'exercer un contrôle effectif sur la perception des dits revenus de douane (Article 4) dans le but de vérifier le montant de recettes et leur affectation. Ce droit de contrôle et de vérification ne sera pas exercé tant que les annuités semestrielles seront convertis par les revenus.

Art. 7. Si, malgré le contrôle prévu par l'Article 6, il se produisait un nouveau retard dans le paiement des annuités semestrielles, la Banque d'Escompte de Perse aura le droit de se charger pour compte du Gouvernement Persan, de la gestion directe de toutes les douanes de Perse, à l'exception de celles de Fars et des ports du Golfe Persique, qui resterait sous la gestion du Trésor Persan, et aux conditions suivantes:—

(a.) Le choix du personnel dépendra de la Banque d'Escompte de Perse, mais il sera composé exclusivement de sujets Persans à l'exception de vingt-cinq fonctionnaires supérieurs, pour lesquels la Banque a pleine liberté de choix.

(b.) La Banque est tenue à maintenir les tarifs légaux et droits existants et à ne pas les augmenter sans le consentement du Gouvernement de Sa Majesté le Schah de Perse;

(c.) Le Gouvernement de Sa Majesté le Schah de Perse se réserve le droit de contrôler la gestion de cette Administration;

(d.) Les frais de perception et d'administration, ainsi que deux annuités semestrielles, étant déduit du montant des recettes, la plus-value éventuelle sera mise à la disposition du Gouvernement de Sa Majesté le Schah de Perse.

Art. 8. Dans le cas où les revenus de douanes réalisés par l'Administration de la Banque (Article 7) se trouveraient insuffisants pour couvrir une annuité semestrielle, le Gouvernement de Sa Majesté le Schah de Perse aurait à fournir une garantie supplémentaire; les modalités de cette garantie additionnelle feront l'objet d'une entente spéciale à établir entre le Gouvernement Persan et la Banque d'Escompte de Perse.

Art. 9. Le produit net de l'Emprunt Persan 5 pour Cent Or de 1902 (Article 2) sera mis à la disposition du Gouvernement Persan comme il suit:—

(a.) Une somme de 3,000,000 de roubles, plus des intérêts courus, est affectée au remboursement des avances accordées par la Banque d'Escompte de Perse en Septembre 1901, Janvier et Mars 1902;

(b.) Conformément à l'Article 14 du Contrat de l'Emprunt Persan 5 pour Cent Or de 1900, le Gouvernement de Sa Majesté le Schah de Perse s'est engagé à ne contracter aucun emprunt extérieur à longue échéance à moins d'une entente préalable avec le Gouvernement Impérial de Russie, mais dans le cas où le Gouvernement de Sa Majesté le Schah de Perse aurait contracté des dettes quelconques à courtes échéances, la Banque

d'Escompte de Perse prend à charge le remboursement intégral avec les primes stipulées de ces dettes éventuelles;

(c.) Le solde du produit net sera mis à la disposition du Gouvernement de Sa Majesté le Schah de Perse:

1. Soit à Saint-Petersbourg en billets de crédit ou en lingots d'argent achetés pour compte du Gouvernement Persan à sa convenance par les soins de la Banque qui percevra sur les achats sa commission usitée.

2. Soit à Téhéran, également en billets de crédit ou en lingots d'argent, les frais d'envoi des billets de crédit sont supportés par la Banque d'Escompte; les frais d'envoi des lingots d'argent sont à la charge du Gouvernement Persan.

3. Soit en transferts (versements) sur Londres, Paris, Berlin, ou des villes Russes autres que Saint-Petersbourg que la Banque d'Escompte de Perse délivrera au cours du jour et en percevant sa commission usitée.

4. Soit à Téhéran en krans frappés à la Monnaie de Saint-Petersbourg. Les frais de frappe à la Monnaie de Saint-Petersbourg et les frais d'envoi des krans de Saint-Petersbourg à Téhéran sont à la charge du Gouvernement de Sa Majesté le Schah de Perse.

Le montant des krans est calculé en roubles au cours du jour. Le paiement du solde de l'Emprunt sera effectué par des versements échelonnés dont les termes seront fixés par l'entente préalable du Gouvernement de Sa Majesté le Schah de Perse et l'Administration de la Banque d'Escompte de Perse à Téhéran.

Art. 10. A l'effet du décompte prévu par l'Article 9, la Banque d'Escompte de Perse ouvrira au Gouvernement Persan un compte courant spécial productif d'un intérêt de 4 pour cent l'an.

Ce compte sera crédité d'une part du produit net de l'emprunt et débité d'autre part des sommes affectées par la Banque au remboursement des dettes du Gouvernement Persan et mis à la disposition du dit Gouvernement (Article 9) valeur [?] pour des écritures respectives.

Art. 11. La Banque d'Escompte de Perse, dans le but d'entrer éventuellement en possession des fonds avancés au Gouvernement de Sa Majesté le Schah de Perse en vertu du présent Contrat, se réserve la faculté d'émettre un emprunt Persan sur les bases suivantes:—

(a.) L'Emprunt Persan sera garanti par le Gouvernement Impérial de Russie;

(b.) Le montant nominal de l'Emprunt Garanti et le taux d'intérêt seront fixés par la Banque d'Escompte de Perse sous la réserve que le produit net de l'Emprunt ne pourra pas dépasser le restant non amorti de l'Emprunt Persan 5 pour Cent Or de 1902 et que le dit Emprunt Garanti devra être intégralement remboursé dans le délai prévu pour l'amortissement définitif de l'Emprunt Persan 5 pour Cent Or de 1902;

(c.) Les titres seront libellés en roubles et leur contre-valeur en monnaies étrangères aux parités adoptées pour les emprunts du Gouvernement Impérial de Russie;

(d.) Les titres et coupons de l'emprunt seront exemptés à tout jamais de tout impôt Persan présent ou à venir ainsi que de tout autre prélèvement de la part du Gouvernement Persan;

(e.) Tous les autres détails concernant l'émission, les titres, le service de l'emprunt seront réglés par la Banque d'Escompte de Perse à son gré;

(f.) La Banque d'Escompte de Perse prenant à sa charge tous les frais découlant de l'émission et du service de l'Emprunt Persan Garanti par le Gouvernement Impérial de Russie, l'émission éventuelle de cet emprunt ne modifie en rien les engagements pris en vertu du présent Contrat par le Gouvernement Persan relativement à l'Emprunt Persan 5 pour Cent Or de 1902 (Article 5);

Art. 12. Le Gouvernement de Sa Majesté le Schah de Perse se réserve le droit de rembourser l'Emprunt Persan 5 pour Cent Or de 1902, par anticipation, à partir du 1^{er} Janvier, 1912, en prévenant la Banque d'Escompte de Perse six mois d'avance. Dans ce cas la Banque d'Escompte de Perse aura le choix d'appeler au remboursement le solde éventuel de l'Emprunt Persan Garanti par le Gouvernement Impérial de Russie ou de le laisser en circulation à sa propre charge sans frais aucuns pour le Gouvernement Persan;

Art. 13. Jusqu'au remboursement intégral de l'Emprunt Persan 5 pour Cent Or de 1902, le Gouvernement de Sa Majesté le Schah de Perse n'émettra aucun emprunt extérieur (fonds d'Etat ou valeurs garantis) à moins d'une entente préalable avec le Gouvernement Impérial de Russie;

Jusqu'à la dite époque le Gouvernement Persan renonce également au droit d'abaisser les droits de douane servant de garantie à l'Emprunt Persan 5 pour Cent Or de 1902 (Article 4) à moins d'une entente préalable avec le Gouvernement Impérial de Russie;

Art. 14. Les doutes et différences quelconques qui surgiraient dans l'exécution de ce

Contrat seront jugés par entente entre le Gouvernement Impérial de Russie et le Gouvernement de Sa Majesté le Schah de Perse.

Art. 15. Le présent Contrat est dressé en deux exemplaires, dont un pour le Gouvernement de Sa Majesté le Schah de Perse, et l'autre pour la Banque d'Escompte de Perse. Les exemplaires seront affranchis de tout droit de timbre Russe et Persan.

No. 404.

Sir A. Hardinge to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received December 29.)

(No. 165.)

My Lord,

Tehran, November 30, 1902.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith a translation of the Azerbaijan Road Concession, the Persian text of which the Grand Vizier communicated confidentially to me simultaneously with the copy of the Loan Contract inclosed in my last preceding despatch.

I have asked for and been promised a copy of the Russian text, which is declared to be authoritative in case of discrepancies and doubts, and I hope I may receive it in time to append it to this despatch before the departure of the next messenger.

I have, at the same time, the honour to inclose a Report from His Majesty's Acting Consul-General at Tabreez on the effect of this latest Concession upon Russian trade and political influence in Northern Persia. No doubt both will be greatly helped by it; but as English goods will presumably be allowed to use the road from Tabreez to Tehran on the same terms as Russian, I do not quite see that the disadvantage which they at present suffer owing to the easier access to both places from Russia need be very much increased by the construction of a carriage road over the comparatively short distance from Tabreez to Julfa. When the railway reaches the Araxes, the handicap against the Trebizond route must already be so severe that improved road communication between Julfa and Tabreez would appear to be of secondary importance. I should not, however, wish to set up my own opinion on the subject against the necessarily greater knowledge of local trade conditions possessed by Mr. Stevens, to whom I am sending a copy of this despatch.

I have, &c.

(Signed) ARTHUR H. HARDINGE.

P.S. December 5.—Since the above was written, I have received the original Concession in the Russian and Persian texts. I therefore inclose a copy of the Russian text, side by side with an English translation, which I have substituted for that made from the Persian copy mentioned in the first paragraph of this despatch.

A. H. H.

Inclosure 1 in No. 404.

Concession for the Building of a High Road from the Russian Frontier to Kazvin.

THE Persian Government has recognized the necessity of connecting the capital of the Empire, Tehran, by a main carriage road with one of the frontier stations of the Russian railway system. With this view, the said Government confers upon the Account and Loan Bank of Persia the exclusive right of building and working the high road from the Russian frontier via Tabreez to Kazvin on the following conditions:—

1. The Bank shall either carry out the construction and working of the said road by means of its own administration, or shall delegate the rights and duties assigned to it by the present Agreement to a Company of shareholders to be constituted by it in accordance with Russian law. The shares in this Company shall only be able to be acquired by Persian and Russian subjects.

2. The aforesaid high road is divided into two parts—viz. (1) from the Russian frontier to Tabreez, and (2) from Tabreez to Kazvin. The Bank undertakes to proceed with the building of the first of these sections within a period of two years

from the date of the signature of the present Agreement, and to arrange to execute the work in such a manner as to enable this section of the road to be open for carriage traffic not later than six years after the assignation to the Bank of the lands necessary for the section indicated. The Bank must proceed to the construction of the second part not later than four years from the date of the signature of the present Agreement, by which this section must be open for wheeled traffic not later than six years after the assignation of the necessary lands.

3. The said high road may be made a "chaussée" (i.e., have a covering of stones or rubble) in places where this is shown to be necessary by the conditions of the ground. The exact direction of the road will be fixed by the Bank. Its breadth must be not less than 2·60 sajens (5·50 mètres).

4. The Persian Governors and other authorities will, under no pretext, interfere in the proceedings of the Bank for the construction and working of the road, and, in case of any doubts, must refer for their elucidation to the Persian Central Government.

5. The Persian Government shall instruct the local authorities to afford the Bank all co-operation for the acquisition in Persia at market prices of all materials necessary for the construction of the road, for the procuring of workmen and means of transport, and for the purchase of provisions for its employés, labourers, and transport animals.

The labourers on the road must be Persian subjects, with the exception of the necessary number of Russian workmen.

6. Matters relating to prosecutions, crimes, offences, &c., which may take place on the territory of the road, shall be heard and settled in accordance with the provisions of the Agreements concluded between Russia and Persia.

Disputes between Persian subjects shall be settled in accordance with the laws of the land.

7. The Persian State lands required for the construction and working of the road, as also for supplying the latter with building materials, such as sand, stones, &c., shall be assigned gratis to the Bank. If such lands should happen to be in the possession of private persons or of the clergy, they shall be ceded to the Bank as its property in return for the payment of an immediate compensation, or of rent, according to the market value. The breadth of the strip of land to be alienated for the purposes of the road must not be less than 20 sajens (42·70 mètres). In places where this is found necessary for technical reasons, the above breadth must be correspondingly enlarged.

The lands belonging to or rented by the Bank shall be free of all Persian dues and taxes.

The Bank shall have the right to erect on the above-mentioned lands buildings and constructions of every kind, as well as to work a line of telegraph to be established by it in the requirements of the road.

8. All the earnings of the Bank from the working of the road and the enterprises connected with it shall be exempt from all Persian dues and taxes.

All articles required for the construction, working, and repair of the road, and for the enterprises connected with it, shall be exempt from the payment of all customs duties and of all Persian dues and taxes whatever, inclusive of road tolls.

9. Goods imported from Russia into Persia by this road, after payment of the customs duty to which they are liable, shall be exempt thenceforth in Persia from all other Persian dues and taxes.

The luggage of passengers shall be exempt both from customs duties and from all other Persian dues and taxes.

The Persian Government engages not to levy "rahdari" on the road worked by the Bank.

10. The charges levied by the Bank for the passage over the road worked by it of carts, carriages, and animals, as well as for the transport of passengers and goods in the conveyances of the Bank, and for the carriage and delivery of goods, shall not be higher than the tolls existing on the Resht road. The Bank is bound to carry the Persian post over the road at half-price.

11. The Bank shall build and work the road at its own cost and risk, and the Persian Government shall in no case be responsible for losses incurred by it.

The road shall belong to and be worked by the Bank for a period of ninety-nine years, at the end of which term it shall pass gratis into the ownership of the Persian Government.

12. The Bank engages, in years in which the net profit of the road exceeds 6·15 per cent., to pay half of this surplus to His Majesty the Shah.

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13. The Russian text of the present Agreement shall be decisive in case of any doubts.

(Signed) L. GRUBE,

Governor of the Account and Loan Bank of Persia.

(Signed) A. OSTRAGRADSKY,

Director of the Account and Loan Bank of Persia.

(L.S.)

Sealed by the Atabeg-Azam.

Tehran, March 20 (April 2), 1902.

Inclosure 2 in No. 404.

Acting Consul-General Stevens to Sir A. Hardinge.

Sir,

Tabreez, November 17, 1902.

I HAVE the honour to report that I have learnt, from reliable and trustworthy sources, that a Company has been formed with a capital of 9,000,000 roubles, divided into 18,000 shares of 500 roubles each, under the auspices of the Banque d'Escompte de Perse, for the purpose of constructing a "chaussée" road from Julfa (via Tabreez) to Kazvin.

It is further stated that three-quarters of the capital has already been subscribed, and that the works will be started in early spring.

There can be little doubt that such a road will give the Russians a great advantage in extending their commerce and influence in this province.

As things stand already, and since the establishment of the Banque d'Escompte, Russian trade in general has considerably increased, to the detriment of English commerce, which is hampered in more than one way.

The Banque d'Escompte affords every facility to forward Russian interests. It encourages business by liberal financing, charging advances on Russian goods at only 8 to 9 per cent. interest per annum as against 12 per cent., which is the legal and recognized rate. It further extends its facility in selling exchange to importers of Russian produce at 1 copeck per toman cheaper than the lowest market rate.

It is evident that the Russian Government, through the medium of its financial establishments in Persia, is using every means to further and push Russian trade and enterprise in this country, and the construction of the Julfa-Kazvin road will be the crowning feature of its influence, already so large in this province.

The "Nadejda," a powerful Russian Transport and Insurance Company, opened an Agency here under the management of Mr. Z. Nazarbekiantz, Russian "Tadjerbashi;" an inaugurating reception was held in the new Company's office situated in the "Emir Kervanserah," to which the local authorities and commercial community were invited to assist.

This is the second Company of this sort which is started here during the current year, the first one being the "Rossia."

The direct result to be derived by the constructing of the new road will be that goods exported will invariably travel via Russia on account of the great saving of time and expense, instead of heretofore via Erzeroum and Trebizond.

By the Russian road and Erivan railway, goods can be safely timed to reach seaport (Batoum) in 25 to 30 days, whereas transport by Erzeroum and Trebizond takes at least, if not over, two months.

As the transit for imports to Persia via Russia is closed, English goods for this province will always have to travel via Trebizond under the most disadvantageous conditions, and consequently competition will be quite one-sided and in favour of Russia.

It may interest your Excellency to know that so far the Banque d'Escompte has not succeeded in putting into circulation the new 5-kran pieces struck in and imported from St. Petersburg. The real standard of this coin being still unknown "Sarafs" and merchants won't take them, fearing that they only contain 84 per cent. silver (same as the Russian silver rouble piece), as against 89 to 90 per cent. contained in the 2-kran pieces struck by the Persian Mint at Tehran.

(Signed) H. STEVENS.

No. 405.

Sir A. Hardinge to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received December 29.)

(No. 166.)

My Lord,

Tehran, December 4, 1902.

HAVING received a few days previously a note from the Persian Foreign Office to the effect that, as the Helmund was now rising, the Perso-Afghan dispute in Seistan appeared likely to settle itself without its being necessary to refer it to a British Arbitrator, I asked the Grand Vizier on the 1st instant whether I was to understand that the proposed mission of Major MacMahon was no longer desired by the Persian Government.

His Highness replied that the Ala-es-Sultaneh had reported that your Lordship seemed to think an award on the Perso-Afghan dispute would be rendered unnecessary by the flooding of the land in debate, but that Major MacMahon would still find employment on the Seistan frontier in delimiting its exact line near Mirjawa. He added that the Persian authorities in Seistan had received and declined secret overtures from the Afghans for a settlement of the Helmund dispute between Persia and Afghanistan without reference to Great Britain, and that the idea that the arbitration might now be dropped had, he thought, been first suggested by your Lordship. I said I had no knowledge of your having made any such suggestion, but in view of the facts mentioned in your Lordship's telegram No. 64 of yesterday's date, I shall not recur, pending further instructions, to the subject in my conversations with the Persian Ministers.

I took occasion to mention the repeated complaints which the Government of India had received from Major Benn about the unfriendly disposition exhibited by the Yamen-i-Nizam, who in a district where it was his duty to cultivate the best relations with the officers representing the neighbouring Power seemed, on the contrary, to be constantly opposing them and acting at Mr. Miller's instigation. The Grand Vizier observed that it was strange that exactly similar complaints against the Yamen-i-Nizam had been made to him by the Russian Legation. The Mushir-ed-Dowleh told me the same thing a few days before, and said that the Russians had not only condemned the Yamen as their enemy, but had charged him with taking bribes from the Afghans. It is perhaps from a knowledge that these charges have been made against him by the Russians that he is now so obviously courting Mr. Miller.

I may mention, while on this subject, an illustration of the Shah's personal prejudices brought out by its recent discussion.

On my suggesting that, in view of the doubts held by us as to the Yamen-i-Nizam's impartiality, it would be better that the Persian Government should forego their intention of attaching him to the Mirjawa Boundary Commission, the Mushir-ed-Dowleh urged me not to raise the point, as His Majesty had been with difficulty dissuaded from objecting to the appointment of Major MacMahon. His Excellency, in reply to my inquiries, could give me no reason for the Shah's suspicion of that officer beyond the fact that he "came from India," and that His Majesty had expressed a decided wish that the British Representative should be "some one from London unconnected with the Indian Government." It is curious and instructive to note this frequent recurrence of the fixed idea, which Russian influences have instilled into the Shah's mind, that encroachments on his southern and eastern provinces are being constantly planned at Calcutta.

I have, &c.

(Signed) ARTHUR H. HARDINGE.

No. 406.

Sir A. Hardinge to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received December 29.)

(No. 167. Confidential.)

My Lord,

Tehran, December 5, 1902.

MY telegrams Nos. 71 of the 20th November and 73 of the 26th November will have informed your Lordship of the efforts made by the Sheikh of Mohammerah's envoy to obtain from us an assurance of conditional support in certain contingencies, and of the reply which I propose to give him.

I spoke to the Grand Vizier on the 1st instant about Mohammerah and referred to the two notes which Mr. des Graz had addressed on the subject to the Mushir-ed-Dowleh, and the last of which has not yet been answered.

His Highness said that he, like the Mushir-ed-Dowleh, had felt surprise at a request for the text of an "Agreement" ("Karardad") between the Persian Government and one of its servants. Such an expression was very unusual. Sheikh Khazal was a subject of the Shah, and Agreements were not made with subjects.

I said I would substitute the word arrangement ("tertib") and ask for information as to the new arrangement made by the Customs Department for the collection of customs at Mohammerah and on the Karun. The omission to give us this information before had caused considerable inconvenience to our merchants and we thought that on this ground, if on no other, we should have been consulted before the up-river customs stations were closed.

The Grand Vizier admitted that this omission had been a mistake, and proposed that M. Naus should be instructed to discuss with me a *modus vivendi*. He contended, however, that the arrangement under which Lynch Brothers were permitted to pay duty at Ahwaz, Shuster, &c., was a personal one made between Sir H. D. Wolff and himself and meant to be applicable so long as it proved workable and mutually convenient, but that the instruction he had given on the subject was not to be regarded as a pledge or as irrevocably committing the Persian Government to its maintenance.

His Highness then endeavoured to argue that our interests were not affected by any changes in the position of the Sheikh, who was a Local Governor like any other. I said I hoped he would allow me to be frank with him on the subject. I had no wish to call in question the Shah's sovereignty over the Chief or people of Mohammerah, which His Majesty's Government had always recognized. Our experience in Seistan had, however, been a lesson in the effects on our interests which the presence of a Russian Consul, and of Belgian Customs officials, who were not always judicious, could produce at the residence of a remote and ill-informed Persian Governor. On the Karun, as in Seistan, the Russians had no *bona fide* commercial interests, and their recent appointment of a Consul could have only political objects. We were determined not to have, if we could help it, another Seistan in Mohammerah, and to let Sheikh Khazal, therefore, understand that if Russian Agents attempted to intimidate him, or insinuate that they could bring pressure to bear on him owing to the influence which they exercised at Tehran, we on our side were ready to support him. It was because threats of this kind had been used by Prince Dabija, Russian Consul at Isfahan, when he visited Mohammerah, that I had felt obliged to intimate to the Sheikh that our naval forces in the Gulf were more powerful than those of Russia, and that they might be employed in certain eventualities for the purpose of maintaining the *status quo* in which he and we were alike interested.

The Grand Vizier observed that the Shah might feel disturbed and troubled if he were to report what I had said. Was not the Persian Government rather than the Sheikh the proper guardian of our interests in Arabistan? As to Russian influence, it was our fault that the unsympathetic policy pursued here in my predecessor's time and the British Government's refusal to help Persia financially, notwithstanding the urgent representations made by Sir M. Durand himself, had driven the Persian Government into the position of which we complained. He had been compelled to allow the Russians to have a Consul at Mohammerah, as their Treaty rights entitled them to this, but he would himself send the Sheikh a reassuring message which would satisfy him that he need not fear that the Persian Government would combine with Russian Agents against him.

Our conversation, of which I have only given the broader outlines, then passed to other subjects, but on my sending Abbas Kuli Khan to the Grand Vizier a few days later to ask for the text of the arrangement which had been come to between the Customs and the Sheikh of Mohammerah, His Highness informed him that "no written arrangements had been made with the Sheikh, but that he was to be nominally head of the Customs and to receive an increase of salary amounting to 12,000 toman a-year for the maintenance of his Arab kinsmen. Some of his relations and sons had, moreover, been already taken into the public service. The Persian Government, His Highness added, had every confidence in that of His Majesty the King, and hoped that the feeling would be reciprocated."

It is impossible, without betraying the confidence of Hajji Reis-ut-Tujjar, to inform His Highness that we have ocular proof of the existence of a written arrangement, sealed both by himself and by the Shah between the Persian Government and the Sheikh, and I suppose, therefore, that we must content ourselves with recording in a note the information which he has given us verbally on the subject. As he has expressed a wish that we should place on record our recognition of the Sheikh's status as a Persian subject, I

propose (if your Lordship authorizes me to do so by despatch or telegraph) sending to him, or rather to the Mushir-ed-Dowleh, the communication of which I have the honour to transmit a draft herewith.* It will, I think, carry more weight if I can say I am instructed to make it by your Lordship.

I have, at the same time, the honour to inclose a copy of the letter which I am sending to Sheikh Khazal, and which, though I shall show it confidentially to his Envoy when I see him next, I shall forward for delivery through the Resident at Bushire to His Majesty's Consul at Mohammerah.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ARTHUR H. HARDINGE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 406.

Sir A. Hardinge to Sheikh of Mohammerah.

December 7, 1902.

(After compliments.)

I WRITE to inform you, my honoured friend, of my return to Tehran from Europe and to inquire after your health.

It was a great disappointment to me that I was unable to visit you this spring, but as you know I was obliged to go to England instead. I hope, however, that it may be possible for me at no distant date to have the pleasure of making your personal acquaintance.

I was very glad to hear from Hajji Reis-ut-Tujjar of the satisfactory arrangement concluded between you and the Department of Customs. On general grounds of policy it is very desirable that differences should as far as possible be avoided between the Persian authorities and the Arab tribes under your rule. The relations between the British and Persian Governments are of a friendly character, and the preservation of the integrity and independence of the Persian monarchy has for many years been one of the great objects of British policy in this part of the world. Disturbances of a nature to imperil that object would be a serious evil, and you would gain little and might endanger much by throwing off the sovereignty of the Shah. I am convinced that under present circumstances, the Arabs, and yourself as their ruler, have every interest in cultivating good and loyal relations with the Government of Tehran, and that the latter has no desire to oppress you or curtail your authority. For this reason I think you acted wisely in giving up all idea of forcible resistance to the establishment of a Custom House and in seeking rather to come, as I have from the first urged you to do, to a friendly understanding on the subject with the Customs Administration.

Hajji Reis-ut-Tujjar asked me on your behalf to what extent you might rely on the protection of the British Government, and I told him that so long as you behaved to us as you have done in the past in a friendly manner, our influence would be exerted here to maintain you and your tribes in the enjoyment of your hereditary rights and customs, and to dissuade the Government of Tehran from any endeavour to diminish or interfere with them. Hajji Reis thereupon said that you were not afraid of the Persian Government itself nor of attack by neighbouring tribes acting or professing to act under its orders, but that you wished to know whether we should protect you in the event of an attempt by a foreign Power to depose you or deprive your people of the rights which they at present possess. This might happen in two ways: either such a foreign Power might be at war with Persia, and might as an enemy of the Shah send ships to attack your district. Or such a Power, pretending to be the friend of the Persian Government or to act on its behalf might attempt also by means of its ships to conquer you and the Arabs. I replied that both contingencies were extremely unlikely, but if either were to arise, we should, I believed, interfere, provided you had acted in accordance with our advice, and our fleet, which is the strongest of any in the Gulf, would be employed to prevent any forcible measures against you. I stated, however, that I would refer these questions to the Foreign Minister of the British Government, and he has now authorized me to say that we shall protect Mohammerah against naval attack by a foreign Power, whatever pretext for such action may be alleged, and also, so long as you remain faithful to the Shah and act in accordance with our advice, shall continue to give you our good offices and support.

As I have, however, said above, I do not regard the danger, at any rate at present, as a real one.

* Approved by telegraph, December 31, 1902.

The Persian Government desires, I am sure, as earnestly as you do, the preservation of peace in Arabistan, and the establishment of a custom-house at Mohammerah is, as I assured you last year, a fiscal, not a political, measure. It has already informed me in a friendly spirit of the conditions under which the new arrangement has been made, and the British Government has instructed me to intimate its acquiescence in them. We reserve, of course, our right to object to any further change which we may consider likely, as affecting peace and trade on the Karun, to be detrimental to our interests.

I trust that the new arrangement may work smoothly. There will be very likely some small difficulties and friction at first, but I trust to your wisdom and judgment to deal with them prudently and patiently.

Our Consul has my orders to afford you all help and advice, and you may place every reliance on my friendship. You can write to me freely should you wish to do so, as well as to the Resident at Bushire.

(Signed) ARTHUR H. HARDINGE.

Inclosure 2 in No. 406.

Draft of Note to Persian Minister for Foreign Affairs.

Your Excellency,

NO answer having been received by this Legation from your Excellency to the note, dated the 11th October, which Mr. des Graz had the honour to address to you respecting Customs changes at Mohammerah, and your Excellency having, in your reply to a previous communication on the subject, said that the matter might have to be referred to His Majesty the Shah and the Atabeg-i-Azam, I had some conversation respecting it with his Highness on the 1st instant.

The Atabeg-i-Azam observed that he had shared your Excellency's surprise at the employment by Mr. des Graz of the word "Karardad" to describe the process by which the Persian Government had effected certain administrative changes in a district whose Ruler was its subject. His Highness, however, recognized that these changes, as affecting British commerce, were a matter of legitimate interest to His Majesty's Government, and, whilst declining to admit that the instruction given by him some years ago that Lynch Brothers should be allowed to pay customs duties at Ahwaz and Shuster was a pledge perpetually binding the Persian Government, he directed M. Naus to discuss this question with me, with a view to the conclusion of a *modus vivendi*.

I observed on my side that while deprecating in the strongest manner any suggestion that the use of the word "Agreement" could be construed as implying on our part a doubt as to the sovereignty of Persia over the Sheikh and people of Mohammerah, which His Majesty's Government had always recognized, we yet felt that the adoption of certain measures towards the Arabs, such as the transfer to Europeans of functions hitherto enjoyed by the Sheikh, might, by causing dissatisfaction and local disturbances, very seriously affect our interests. It was for this reason that we considered that the friendly relations existing between the Persian and British Governments and the assurances which the former had repeatedly given us, justified us in asking for the fullest information as to the exact nature of the changes proposed. His Highness assured me of his readiness to meet our views on this respect, and when a day or so later I asked him, through Abbas Kuli Khan, for the text of the arrangements with the Sheikh of Mohammerah, which I understood had been, or were about to be concluded, he replied that no written arrangements had been made with the Sheikh, but that he was to have the titular rank of head of the Customs, and to receive an increase of salary amounting to 12,000 toman a-year for the maintenance of his Arab kinsmen. Some of his relations had, moreover, been already taken into the public service. The Persian Government, His Highness added, had every confidence in that of His Majesty the King of Great Britain, and hoped that this feeling was reciprocated.

I communicated the account of what had passed between His Highness and myself to Lord Lansdowne, who has now instructed me to make the following declaration to your Excellency, for the information of the Persian Government, and with a view to making our position in this matter perfectly clear.

1. The British Government has never questioned the Shah's full rights of sovereignty over the territory, Ruler, and people of Mohammerah. Any suspicion which the Persian Government may have been led to entertain that we sought to establish any analogy between the position of the Sheikh of Mohammerah and that of the Sheikhs of Bahrein or Koweit, or to distinguish between it and that of other Persian Governors such, for

instance, to cite your Excellency's own illustration in conversation with Mr. de Graz, as the Chief of Kuchan, can only have been suggested by persons desirous of sowing distrust between the two friendly States. We recognize in the fullest manner that his Excellency the Sirdar Arfa is a Persian subject and a servant of His Imperial Majesty the Shah.

2. At the same time, the important interests which Great Britain possesses in the south of Persia preclude us from viewing with indifference any changes in the system of government in the Province of Arabistan, which, by causing trouble among the Arab tribes, may endanger our trade and the security of foreign subjects, or afford occasion for interference by other Powers, and thus oblige us on our side to take active steps for the protection of British rights. It is notorious that, when it was first announced that the Customs of Arabistan were to be placed in charge of Belgian employees, there was a certain ferment among the Arabs, and that some of them went so far as to forcibly oppose the landing of the Karguzar of Bushire at Mohammerah. The misconceptions which had occasioned this ferment were happily dispelled, but had the Persian Government not pursued so wise and tactful a policy, it might easily have assumed a dangerous character and produced grave and far-reaching effects. The British Government takes note with satisfaction of the announcement which His Highness the Atabeg-i-Azam has enabled me to make to it, that although no written arrangements modifying the Customs system on the Karun have been made between the Persian Government and the Sheikh of Mohammerah as its principal local representative, yet the Sheikh will be retained as the head of the Customs, with an increased salary and employment for his relations, and it has every hope that the new Customs Administration, whose establishment it has always regarded with sympathy, will prove of benefit to all parties concerned. It also learns with pleasure that the Persian Government is willing to maintain the existing Custom-house at Ahwaz, the retention of which is deemed important to the commercial interests of the British merchants engaged in the trade and navigation of the Karun. But it must again reserve its right in the event of further changes which it could not view with equal approbation to make friendly representations with regard to them to the Persian Government, and if need be, take such other ulterior steps as it may deem requisite for the protection of British interests, both political and commercial, should these, in its opinion, be threatened. It is glad, however, to take the opportunity of expressing its confidence in the friendly assurances which His Highness the Atabeg has renewed to it, and which, on its side, it is happy to reciprocate.

I trust that this frank and explicit statement of the views entertained on the subject by His Majesty's Government may remove all possibility of doubt or misunderstanding on the part of the Persian Government, and I avail myself, &c.

No. 407.

Sir A. Hardinge to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received December 29.)

(No. 168.)

My Lord,

Tehran, December 8, 1902.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, for your Lordship's information, the usual monthly summary of events in Persia.

I have, &c.

(Signed) ARTHUR H. HARDINGE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 407.

Monthly Summary of Events in Persia not reported in separate Despatches.

Tehran.

IT is reported that the Shua-es-Sultaneh has been reconciled with the Atabeg-i-Azam, and has been appointed Commander-in-chief of the army in place of the Sepah Salar. The latter's position has suffered owing to his brother, the Ain-ed-Dowleh, having fallen under the displeasure of the Grand Vizier.

The Sepah Salar is said to have appealed for protection to the Russian Legation without success, and to have now asked permission to retire to his village.

Nothing is, however, known for certain on the subject.

Bushire.

The Kawam-ul-Mulk of Shiraz left Bushire on the 27th October for Kerbela. It is reported that the Islands of Kishm and Larak with Khamir have been let by the Shah to the Moin-ut-Tujjar for farming purposes.

*Mohammerah.—Nil.**Ispahan.*

The Bakhtiari have looted about 3,000 sheep from the Zil-es-Sultan's villages in Kewand.

The Prince is very indignant at this outrage, and is sending to Tehran to make a formal complaint.

Mr. Preece hears on good authority that a good deal of dissension and ill-feeling exists at present among the Bakhtiari. The younger members of their families are very discontented with the management of the tribal affairs by the Sirdar Assad and the Sipahdar.

*Shiraz.—Nil.**Asterabad.*

Custom-houses, under the direction of two Turkoman Chiefs, have been established by the Prince-Governor at Gumish Tepeh and Khajeh Nafas.

Seistan.

M. Dhoedt, Inspector of Customs, has had some trouble with the village of Dost Mohammed, where he seized a large amount of grain on suspicion that it was intended for export to Afghanistan. The Headman of the village told Major Benn that the villagers would probably take vengeance on M. Dhoedt. Major Benn persuaded him to avoid taking any such action, but points out the danger to their lives to which the precipitate and tactless conduct of the young Belgian officials often exposes them.

A Russian spy in the pay of Major Benn has told him that the Russian Consul had lent his (the informant's) services to the Yamin-i-Nizam during the recent disturbances on the frontier. The Russian Consul had informed the Nizam that Major Benn had supplied the Akhunzada of Chikansur with a false map, and had himself given him another one. The Russian Consul had also informed the Governor's Nazir that the bunds which the Afghans had built this year at various places on the Helmund, had been constructed at the instigation of the British.

Meshed.

Recent arrivals state that it is rumoured in Askabad that the Transcaspian and Turkestan garrisons are to be increased by 20,000 men. It is also said that the Russians intend to make Saraks a place of first-rate military importance, and to connect it by rail either with Merv or Tejed. This is said to be the answer of the Russian Government to the decision of the Indian Government to build a railway from Quetta to Nushki.

The Russian Bank Director is reported to be organizing meetings of Russian and Persian merchants to protest against the irregular way in which the Customs officials discharge their duties. It is said that the Acting Russian Consul does not view M. Sobonsky's proceedings with favour, and will not support any action hostile to M. Castaigne.

(Signed) WILLIAM A. F. ERSKINE.

Tehran, December 8, 1902.

Inclosure 2 in No. 407.

Notes on Russian Military Movements in Trans-Caspia for the Week ending October 4, 1902.

THE following information has been furnished by news-writers:—

September 10.—16 waggons, carrying guns, rifles, and ammunition, passed through Askabad in direction of Merv.

September 11.—51 waggon loads of supplies were dispatched from Krasnovodsk towards Askabad; 9 infantry and 8 Cossacks left Krasnovodsk for Russia; 34 infantry left Krasnovodsk for Askabad; 19 waggon loads of railway material passed through Askabad in direction of Merv.

September 13.—5 waggon loads of rifles and 2 waggons carrying infantry passed through Askabad in direction of Merv.

September 14.—25 infantry left Krasnovodsk for Russia; 950 boxes of ammunition were received at Krasnovodsk, 550 were dispatched to Askabad, and 400 were kept at Krasnovodsk; 23 waggon loads of railway material passed through Askabad in direction of Merv; 500 infantry left Askabad by train proceeding in direction of Merv.

September 15.—35 infantry left Krasnovodsk for Russia; 8 infantry recruits passed through Krasnovodsk in direction of Askabad; a General and 2 officers left Askabad for Sheikh Junaid; 4 waggons carrying a number of artillery officers and 300* cavalry passed through Askabad in direction of Merv.

September 16.—112 waggon loads of supplies and 15 waggon loads of clothing were dispatched from Krasnovodsk to Askabad. 250 infantry and a number of officers passed through Askabad in the direction of Krasnovodsk.

September 17.—18 waggons full of officers and Cossacks arrived at Askabad from direction of Krasnovodsk.

(Signed) J. F. WHYTE, Lieutenant-Colonel,
His Britannic Majesty's Acting Consul-General.

Meshed, October 4, 1902.

The following information regarding the rolling-stock of the Central Asian Railway was given in a recent number of the "Askabad":—

Engines in the possession of the railway in July last—						
Passenger train engines	..	..	..	..	..	16
Goods train engines	..	..	..	..	..	322
Tank engines	..	..	..	..	..	3

Expected to be delivered from Russia during 1902—						
Engines not classified	..	..	..	..	..	121
Of this number 34 were intended for the Orenburg-Tashkend Railway.						

Passenger carriages in the possession of the railway in July last—						
1st class	..	..	..	..	..	15
2nd class	..	..	..	..	..	43
2nd-3rd class	..	..	..	..	..	15
3rd class	..	..	..	..	..	115
Saloon carriage for Amir of Bokhara (with kitchen waggon)	..	..	..	..	..	1
Railway service carriages	..	..	..	..	..	53
Church carriages	..	..	..	..	..	3
Postal	..	..	..	..	..	22
Prison	..	..	..	..	..	7
Sanitary	..	..	..	..	..	16
"Dining cars"	..	..	..	..	..	10
Kitchen carriages	..	..	..	..	..	7
Baggage waggons	..	..	..	..	..	14

Expected to be delivered from Russia during 1902—						
1st class	..	..	..	..	..	4
2nd class	..	..	..	..	..	10
Prison carriages	..	..	..	..	..	6
Baggage waggons	..	..	..	..	..	8

The number of goods waggons was not given.

* These men were presumably in separate waggons; four waggons could not carry this number of troops.

*Notes on Russian Military Movements in Trans-Caspia for the Week ending
October 18, 1902.*

The following information has been furnished by news-writers:—

September 25.—36 waggon loads of supplies were dispatched from Krasnovodsk in direction of Askabad. 8 infantry left Krasnovodsk for Askabad. 10 infantry left for Russia.

September 26.—54 waggon loads of supplies were dispatched from Krasnovodsk in direction of Askabad.

September 27.—12 infantry and 6 Cossacks left Krasnovodsk for Tashkend. 59 waggon loads of supplies were dispatched from Krasnovodsk in direction of Askabad.

September 28.—25 infantry and 31 Cossacks left Krasnovodsk for Russia. 60 waggon loads of supplies and 15 waggon loads of ammunition were dispatched from Krasnovodsk in direction of Askabad.

September 29.—10 waggon loads of supplies were dispatched from Krasnovodsk in direction of Askabad.

September 30.—30 infantry left Krasnovodsk for Russia.

October 1.—13 waggon loads of supplies and 6 waggon loads of ammunition were dispatched from Krasnovodsk in direction of Askabad. 24 waggons containing 23 Cossacks each, and 3 waggons containing officers passed through Askabad in direction of Merv.

October 2.—19 waggons containing Government stores passed through Askabad by night train in direction of Merv.

October 3.—400 infantry passed through Askabad for Russia, time expired.

October 4.—20 waggon loads of infantry passed through Askabad for Russia. 20 waggons containing 400 Cossacks passed through Askabad by night train in direction of Merv.

October 6.—5 waggons containing railway material passed through Askabad in direction of Merv.

(Signed) J. F. WHYTE, Lieutenant-Colonel,
His Britannic Majesty's Acting Consul-General.

Meshed, October 18, 1902.

*Notes on Russian Military Movements in Trans-Caspia for the Week ending
November 8, 1902.*

The following information has been furnished by news-writers:—

October 17.—150 Cossacks, with horses, and 370 infantry, passed through Krasnovodsk on their way to Russia. 275 Cossacks and 500 infantry passed through Krasnovodsk in direction of Askabad. 26 waggon loads of flour and 4 waggon loads of clothing passed through Krasnovodsk in direction of Askabad.

October 18.—325 infantry and 420 Cossacks passed through Krasnovodsk on their way to Russia. 151 infantry and 217 Cossacks passed through Krasnovodsk in direction of Askabad. 43 waggon loads of flour passed through Krasnovodsk in direction of Askabad.

October 19.—350 Cossacks and 1,000 infantry passed through Krasnovodsk on their way to Russia. 215 infantry and 224 Cossacks, with horses, passed through Krasnovodsk in direction of Askabad. 99 waggon loads of supplies passed through Krasnovodsk in direction of Askabad. 151 boxes of ammunition passed through Krasnovodsk in direction of Askabad.

October 20.—920 infantry and 275 Cossacks, with horses, passed through Krasnovodsk on their way to Russia. 40 infantry and 493 Cossacks, with horses, passed through Krasnovodsk in direction of Askabad. 8 waggon loads of flour, seven waggon loads of ammunition, and three waggon loads of clothing passed through Krasnovodsk in direction of Askabad.

October 21.—761 Cossacks and 220 infantry passed through Krasnovodsk on their way to Russia. 360 Cossacks and 371 infantry passed through Krasnovodsk in direction of Askabad. 48 waggon loads of supplies passed through Krasnovodsk in direction of Askabad.

October 22.—58 infantry and 20 Cossacks passed through Krasnovodsk on their way to Russia. 223 Cossacks passed through Krasnovodsk in direction of Askabad. 213 waggon loads of supplies passed through Krasnovodsk in direction of Askabad.

October 23.—193 Cossacks and 490 infantry passed through Krasnovodsk on their way to Russia. 202 Cossacks and 196 infantry passed through Krasnovodsk in direction of Askabad. 147 waggon loads of supplies and 21 waggon loads of clothing passed through Krasnovodsk in direction of Askabad.

(Signed) J. F. WHYTE, Lieutenant-Colonel,
His Britannic Majesty's Acting Consul-General.

Meshed, November 8, 1902.

*Notes on Russian Military Movements in Trans-Caspia for the Week ending
November 15, 1902.*

The following information has been furnished by news-writers:—

October 25.—450 infantry and 258 Cossacks passed through Krasnovodsk on their way to Russia. 75 infantry and 24 Cossacks passed through Krasnovodsk in direction of Askabad. 81 waggon loads of supplies were dispatched towards Askabad from Krasnovodsk.

October 26.—320 infantry and 56 Cossacks passed through Krasnovodsk on their way to Russia. 51 infantry and 170 Cossacks passed through Krasnovodsk in direction of Askabad. 24 waggon loads of supplies were dispatched towards Askabad from Krasnovodsk. 59 boxes of ammunition were received at Krasnovodsk from Russia.

October 27.—18 infantry and 290 Cossacks with horses passed through Krasnovodsk on their way to Russia. 109 Cossacks passed through Krasnovodsk in direction of Askabad. 72 waggon loads of supplies and 1,150 boxes containing bread were dispatched from Krasnovodsk in direction of Askabad.

October 28.—23 infantry passed through Krasnovodsk on their way to Russia. 41 Cossacks passed through Krasnovodsk in direction of Askabad. 66 waggon loads of supplies, 21 waggon loads of clothing, and 126 boxes of ammunition were dispatched from Krasnovodsk towards Askabad.

October 29.—350 Cossacks passed through Krasnovodsk in direction of Askabad.

October 30.—21 infantry and 120 Cossacks passed through Krasnovodsk on their way to Russia. 24 infantry and 195 Cossacks passed through Krasnovodsk in direction of Askabad.

October 31.—20 infantry and 110 Cossacks passed through Krasnovodsk on their way to Russia. 10 infantry and 50 Cossacks passed through Krasnovodsk in direction of Askabad. 40 waggon loads of supplies were dispatched from Krasnovodsk towards Askabad.

October 27.—300 infantry passed through Askabad in direction of Merv. 4 waggon loads of Government stores passed through Askabad in direction of Merv.

October 28.—250 Cossacks left Askabad in direction of Merv. 8 waggon-loads of Government stores passed through Askabad in direction of Merv.

October 29.—1,300 Cossacks left Askabad in direction of Merv. 3 waggon loads of bread, 10 waggon loads of rifles, and 5 waggon loads of tents passed through Askabad in direction of Merv.

October 30.—250 Cossacks left Askabad in direction of Merv. 60 boxes containing rifles arrived at Askabad from Russia.

October 31.—500 infantry left Askabad in direction of Merv. 4 waggon loads of Government stores, 12 waggon loads of railway materials, and 150 boxes containing rifles passed through Askabad in direction of Merv.

November 1.—950 infantry left Askabad in direction of Merv. 6 guns lately received at Askabad from Russia were dispatched in direction of Merv. 18 waggon loads of rifles passed through Askabad in direction of Merv.

November 4.—350 infantry left Askabad in direction of Merv.

(For I. M. S.),
(Signed) J. FISHER, Captain,
His Britannic Majesty's Acting Consul-General.

Meshed, November 15, 1902.

No. 408.

Sir A. Hardinge to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received December 29.)

(No. 169.)

My Lord,

Tehran, December 7, 1902.

I HAVE the honour to report, in continuation of my telegram No. 79 of to-day's date, that I mentioned to the Grand Vizier the rumours which I said I had heard had reached London as to the intended employment of Yusuf Khan, and as to the possible revival in favour of a foreign Company of the late Dr. Tholozan's Ahwaz Concession.

His Highness replied that Yusuf Khan was coming to Tehran to work in the Persian Foreign Office, but that there had never been any question of his employment in connection with survey work in the south of Persia. The Shah would never give the Ahwaz Dam Concession to any foreign Company. The reason why, after it lapsed, the Persian Government had refused to regrant it to Dr. Tholozan was because Nasr-ed-Din Shah had suspected that he might endeavour to sell it to a French or Franco-Russian Syndicate, and thus involve the Persian Government in political difficulties.

The only explanation of these reports which he could suggest was that the Persian Government had engaged, during the Shah's visit to Europe, a Dutch engineer to go down to Arabistan for the purpose of repairing and constructing certain bridges on the Karun River.

The Atabeg-i-Azam further stated that having seen a few days ago a report telegraphed by Reuter's Agency to the effect that a survey with a view to the construction of railways by a French Company in Southern Persia had been decided upon, he had at once telegraphed to the Persian Ministers in London and Paris instructing them to contradict this report officially. This, to judge by later Reuter telegrams, they appear already to have done.

I am inclined to suspect that these reports as to road and railway surveys in Southern Persia have been set going by Baron Kolischer, a Jewish speculator and Concession-monger of Austrian nationality, who holds a lapsed Persian Railway Concession, and who has been mentioned in despatches both from this Legation and from His Majesty's Embassy at Vienna in connection with claims made by him both against the Persian Government and its Minister in Austria. Baron Kolischer now edits an Austrian newspaper, and is in touch with certain journalistic and Parliamentary circles both in Paris and Vienna. I should think it quite likely that he has tried to make use of his Concession, and of the influence which he alleges in Europe that he enjoys here, in order to float some Company in Paris for railway schemes in Southern Persia, and that the rumours which have reached your Lordship through Sir H. D. Wolff are an echo of his efforts in this direction.

I have, &c.

(Signed) ARTHUR H. HARDINGE.

No. 409.

Sir A. Hardinge to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received December 29.)

(No. 170.)

My Lord,

Tehran, December 7, 1902.

I HAVE little to add to the account of the political situation here since the Shah's return given your Lordship by Mr. Erskine in his despatch No. 155 of the 8th November.

The Grand Vizier's ascendancy over the Shah's mind shows no signs of abating, but he seems to conciliate rather than to crush the various elements from which he has experienced or anticipates opposition. Several fallen Ministers, including the Kawam-ed-Dowleh and the Vazir-i-Humayun, exiled after the abortive conspiracy of August 1901, have been permitted to return to Tehran. The Firman Firma is on his way back from Bagdad, and should arrive here in about a fortnight's time. There was talk of sending him on a special mission to Khorassan and the Afghan frontier; but I hear that, for the present, he will not be given any employment, and will reside on his brother's estates in Irak. The Grand Vizier has been assiduous in flatteries and presents to the Mollahs. One of them admitted to me the other day that lavish bribes had been given to the clergy, whilst another, who assured me that he himself had as yet received nothing, asserted that

the Government had succeeded in dividing, without really winning over, his brethren, and that the clerical agitation would recommence at the first hint of fresh loans from or concessions to Russia.

Financial difficulties are, as usual, the chief danger ahead, and may easily become acute should the introduction of the new customs duties, from which a substantial increase of revenue is expected, be for any reason delayed. I believe the Atabeg-i-Azam to be quite sincere in his declarations that he will not, if he can help it, face a third Russian loan; but a device to which I am told he may resort is to obtain permission from M. de Witte to defer the payment of the annual interest on existing debts in return for either definite political concessions to Russia or for a complete temporary subordination of Persia's policy to Russian direction. The demand for arrears of interest would thus become like that for the war indemnity in Turkey—a permanent and peaceful means of bringing Russian pressure to bear upon the Shah, without the difficulties and dangers attending the conclusion of a new loan.

In several of the provinces, and more especially in the south-west, affairs are in a very disturbed condition. With the exception of the region administered by the Sheikh of Mohammerah, the whole of the great Province of Arabistan, governed by one of the Shah's younger sons, His Imperial Highness Prince Salar-ed-Dowleh, is, and has been for the last year, in a state of insurrection and anarchy, which no serious attempt is made to remedy. The main road running through it to the capital has been practically abandoned by caravans as unsafe, and the Prince-Governor is almost a prisoner in Burujird. Fars is, by all accounts, not very much better. The Asaph-ed-Dowleh has neither the character nor the means required to repress the growing lawlessness and disorder, and murders, robberies, and raids by the Kashi-kai tribesmen are of frequent occurrence in the immediate neighbourhood of Shiraz.

The new Russian Minister has kept a good deal in the background since his arrival. He has, however, I hear, already impressed very strongly upon the Shah the importance of maintaining the Atabeg-i-Azam in office.

I have, &c.

(Signed) ARTHUR H. HARDINGE.

No. 410.

Sir A. Hardinge to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received December 29.)

(No. 15. Commercial. Confidential.)

My Lord,

Tehran, December 5, 1902.

I ASKED the Grand Vizier on the 1st instant if he could yet communicate to me, in accordance with the assurances he had repeatedly given both to your Lordship and myself, the text of the new Commercial Convention with Russia, as I had heard rumours that it was actually signed.

His Highness answered with some embarrassment that he had not yet succeeded in obtaining from the Shah the necessary permission to do so, and that he was not even authorized to make to me any statement as to its signature.

I said I should have to telegraph this reply to your Lordship, as several of my colleagues believed that the Tariff had already been signed, and would come into operation on or soon after the Noruz Festival (the 21st March next). He smiled, and said: "Well, I personally am of the same opinion as your colleagues, but I am not allowed to tell you this officially." He then showed me the draft of a French letter which he had written a week before to your Lordship in answer to your proposal to send an expert here. This communication will doubtless have reached you before the arrival of this despatch, so that I need not say more about it.

M. Naus has since admitted to my Austrian colleague that the new Convention was actually signed, but that until the date of its publication had been agreed upon with Russia, it could not be communicated to the Legations.

I have very little doubt that the signature took place last September at St. Petersburg, when M. Naus went there to see M. de Witte, immediately after having obtained from the Sublime Porte the Agreement inclosed in Sir Nicholas O'Connor's despatch No. 145, and thus removed the most serious obstacle to its conclusion.

It is evident that the Persian Government have evaded, or have been compelled by Russia to evade, the promises which the Grand Vizier gave me at Carlsbad, in the hope of obtaining a flattering reception in England, and that we must therefore either abandon all hope of securing as the result of a friendly understanding with them the

modifications which we consider important to our interests and accept the Tariff as it stands, or by raising the legal points as to the rights of Turkey and Egypt, which I have already had the honour to suggest, bring about a discussion of our position on technical as opposed to moral grounds.

The weak point in our case if we invoke Egyptian treatment is obviously the one to which attention has been drawn by the Earl of Cromer, viz., that although Persia cannot impose on Egypt without the latter's consent the Turkish Convention or Agreement of September last, yet if the effect of that Convention is to terminate the commercial régime of the Treaty of Erzeroum in Turkey, it may also be held to terminate it in Egypt, and to give both to Egypt and Persia complete freedom of action as regards their further commercial arrangements.

It therefore seems important that some declaration should be obtained from Turkey to the effect that it was not her intention in signing the late Convention to abandon any of the rights enjoyed by her under the Treaty of Erzeroum, except the one of imposing upon Persian imports an excise or "*droit de vente*" which both Persia and Turkey would naturally forego as the result of the reciprocal grant to one another of most-favoured-nation treatment. I do not think that the making of such a declaration, either in the form of an exchange of notes between the Porte and His Majesty's Embassy, or in that of a communication to the Persian Government, when the latter notifies the new Tariff to it, need prejudice Turkey's rights to avail herself of that Tariff, if she prefers it to the old commercial régime.

An announcement that while willing for the present to accept, provided other Powers do so, the application of the new duties to her goods, she reserves to herself the right, should she deem it necessary in the future, to revert to the old system would effectually prevent the latter from being deemed to have lapsed or expired, and it would, therefore, still remain the régime for Egypt until the latter country declared itself ready to adopt the new Russo-Persian Tariff.

The danger to this Tariff to us, and also in a lesser degree to Turkey, lies not so much in the increase of duties which it at present establishes, and which may, or may not, be of serious injury to our interests, as in the possibility which it affords for almost indefinite taxation of our products in the future by an impecunious Government, living mainly on its revenue from customs. It is the increase of its customs revenues that Persia will find the only security for the further borrowings from Russia, which, if the present régime at Tehran continues, seem sooner or later inevitable. If, however, when Persia next applies for a Russian loan, M. de Witte declines to give it, and at the same time forbids the Shah, as he did last year, to borrow in any other foreign country, the only course open to the Persian Government is to increase its income by fresh taxation. Being too weak to venture on any addition to the land tax, it can only do this to any large extent by augmenting its customs revenues. It must therefore impose, as the result of a fresh agreement with the Russian Government, higher duties on goods in which Russian merchants are not interested, and there is no reason to suppose that the Russians, who desire to hamper English and Indian trade with Persia, will interfere to prevent its assisting them in the way to do so. If we object it will answer, as it has answered our objections to the present Tariff, by pleading *vis major*, and our own action in refusing it financial aid in 1898, when it was ready to grant to us, in return for a loan, the right, since accorded by it to Russia, of vetoing any change in its customs system. Both we and Turkey shall therefore be at its mercy, and at that of Russia in this respect unless we can, by taking a strong stand when the new Tariff first comes into force, oblige Persia to agree to some special arrangement with us.

I observe in Sir N. O'Connor's despatch No. 145 that the Turkish Ministers assured His Excellency of their willingness, either by denouncing the Agreement of September last, or in such other manner as might be found possible, to repair Tewfik Pasha's mistake. Can the Porte not now fulfil this promise by making to us or to Persia, or to both, a declaration such as that which I have suggested above, and which by maintaining, if only in reserve, the commercial obligations of the Erzeroum Treaties, would preclude Persia from pleading that the latter had expired as far as Turkey was concerned, and could not therefore be invoked in Egypt?

The Austrian Minister, who naturally takes a greater interest in this question than my other colleagues—Austrian trade with Persia being of some importance—has several times discussed it with me, and has suggested, confidentially, both to myself and, I believe, to his Government, that your Lordship might concert with the latter with a view to joint action in the matter at Tehran. I have, on my side, shown him, confidentially, and have allowed him to take a copy of, the Tariff inclosed in my despatch No. 2, Commercial, of the 26th February; and I have informed him that the question as to

how far we can, under present circumstances, invoke Turkish or Egyptian rights under the Erzeroum Treaties is still under your Lordship's consideration. But I am not sure that it would not be wiser to raise the latter question—at least, tentatively—before rather than after an *entente* (supposing the latter possible) with Austria. If we do so—and especially if we hint that other Powers may take the same line as ourselves, but that we are willing to come to terms with Persia "*à deux*" if she will let us and that our position at Cairo will enable us to bring Egypt into line and thus remove the last difficulty in the way—it is possible that Persia may be induced to make some separate Agreement with us, and to give us a Conventional Tariff of our own—not, perhaps, very different from, but in some respects less objectionable than, the Russian one. If we can achieve this, we shall have obtained two great advantages:—

1. The moral one of proving to Persia that we must be consulted, if only *pro forma*, in such matters, and cannot be treated as a negligible quantity.

2. The securing of a definite Agreement between Persia and ourselves which could not be affected by any subsequent arrangements with Russia.

For these it would, perhaps, be worth while to make some slight commercial sacrifices in the matter of the Tariff itself, in return for certain modifications in it which the Persian Government might be led to grant rather than risk the loss of the whole. If, however, we bring in the Austrians, we should have to consider, before coming to an arrangement with Persia on behalf of ourselves and of Egypt, the commercial interests of Austria as well as of England and India, and this might make an agreement with Persia much more difficult, and might drive her in despair to repudiate our whole contention and appeal against us to arbitration, on which we might possibly lose. I would therefore prefer to wait and see how the Persian Government receives our legal argument—assuming that we decide to formulate it—before complicating the question by directly inviting the co-operation of other Powers. Should Persia (who in this matter will, no doubt, be guided by Russia) declare, as she may, that she cannot admit our premises, and that she declines to recognize the right of Egypt to claim, or of Turkey to revert to, the provisions of the Treaties of Erzeroum, the diplomatic intervention of other Powers—and especially of Austria—would be useful. The Grand Vizier, however, is more likely to adopt (unless his hand is forced by Russia) a conciliatory and temporizing attitude, which will enable us on our side to gain time.

I have, &c.

(Signed) ARTHUR H. HARDINGE.

No. 411.

Private Letter from Mr. G. H. Fitzmaurice to Foreign Office.—(Received December 29.)

British Camp, Dthala, Aden Boundary Commission,
Aden, December 12, 1902.

I ARRIVED here about three weeks ago to join this Commission sent here about a year ago to delimit the boundary between the nine protected tribes of the Aden hinterland and the Turkish Province of the Yemen. The Commission have not begun yet, and are not likely to do so unless the attitude of His Majesty's Government changes. Having come to a deadlock about the Amiri tribes, tributary to the Amir of Dthala, the two Governments have decided to reserve the question for discussion and settlement at headquarters, i.e., in London or Constantinople, and both Commissions sent home about a fortnight ago a joint map setting forth their respective claims with detailed information on the subject. That Report (Commission's No. 180 of the 2nd December) ought to reach the India and Foreign Offices about Christmas time. I feel convinced that the whole question, one of great importance as regards the future safety of the Aden hinterland, hinges on the proper settlement of the Amiri difficulty; that difficulty is not to be got over by transferring the discussion from here to London or Constantinople. It is not the outcome of the personal relations of the two Commissions here, and as you can realize, just like the Turkish Commissioners here, who are simply the docile interpreters of the Sultan's views on the subject, neither the Ottoman Embassy in London, nor any officials at Constantinople, appointed to discuss the matter with His Majesty's Government, can possibly admit the justice of any one British contention without the special sanction or *Irade* of the Sultan—a sanction only to be obtained by pressure of a forcible kind. It seems imperative that His Majesty's Government should

make up its mind without further delay to tackle and get settled this Amiri matter, which is the crux of the whole question. For once the Turks have been compelled to evacuate the Amir's territory, they will be much more amenable to reason, and the rest of the work of delimitation may be expected to go fairly smoothly and rapidly, more especially as the Haushabi border to the south-west was practically settled last year by the Ad Dareja incident, which has made the Turks very chary of interfering in that direction, while in a north-east direction the Yaffai (one of the nine tribes) are a big tribe well able to protect themselves, with our moral support, against ordinary Turkish encroachments—a fact which they proved conclusively some seven years ago when they repulsed a Turkish raiding expedition, inflicting on the latter heavy losses, including baggage and guns.

The ordinary principles upon which a Boundary Commission should work are that the Commissioners on both sides, invested with powers to settle minor points, should be at liberty to move freely in, survey and collect information about, the debateable territory, *i.e.*, the British Commissioners should have been free to proceed to the Azraki Ahmed, Humedi, and Mibrabi districts (subject to the Amir of Dthala), as also to the country between Jalela (*sc.* Jelilé) and a line south of Kataba. The Turks, however, whose Commissioners are not empowered to settle the most trifling point, immediately on the decision to send a Delimitation Commission, and acting on orders from the Sultan, made a rush and seized by force Jebel (Mount) Jihaf and Jebel Mafari, thus driving a wedge in between Dthala and the Azraki, Humedi, Mibrabi, &c., dependents of the Amir of Dthala. Their sentries and Arab levies had orders to fire on, and actually did fire on, any peaceful British party proceeding in that direction, while they doubled their garrison at Jelilé and brought up their one field and three mountain guns, which they posted on Jebel Shahad (Suheb), immediately south of Jelilé and commanding the British camp, refusing to allow, under threats of firing on, any one attached to the British Commission to go beyond their Jelilé lines to the Amir's villages between Jelilé and Kataba. Despite the remonstrances of the British Commission and His Majesty's Government, they have maintained this attitude for over a year, committing many hostile acts, already reported by the Commission, and although, in deference to threats by O'Connor of a use of force, the Sultan has given way a bit by ordering the temporary withdrawal of his regulars from Jebel Mafari, Jebel Jihaf, and the artillery posted on Jebel Shahad (Suheb), the guns are still at Jelilé instead of being sent back to where they came from a year ago, and the irregulars, or "bashibozaks," are still posted on Jebel Jihaf and Mafari, with orders to fire on any British party approaching in that direction, the British Commissioners being thus forcibly prevented from visiting those regions, belonging as they do to the Amir, or the country of the Amir's dependents, the Azraki, Mibrabi, Humedi, &c.

All this, while showing the bad faith of the Sultan when he proposed the Commission, and since, is a game of bluff, backed by a show of force as his only real argument, and would be at once abandoned by him if confronted by the same argument, but scarcely otherwise. He and his officials here have naturally been encouraged in it by the enforced attitude of the British Commissioners here, who, by their strict instructions to avoid complications (these instructions have really tended to making the situation more complicated), have been debarred, and have in turn debarred the Amir, from going beyond protests in resenting the conduct of the Turks, though both they and the Amir have thus been placed in a most humiliating, if not exasperating, position.

The Sultan, through his Commissioners here, while thus drawing an iron fence round the British Commission to the west, north, and east, has had the audacity to claim a line partly shown on the joint map (attached to the British Commission's No. 180 of the 2nd December last), running not north-east but south-east about 12 miles to the south of Jebel Harir, then east some 8 miles till it reaches the stream called Wadi Baunu, then south down the Wadi Baunu to the south of the Yaffai country, then in an easterly direction (leaving the whole Yaffai district Upper and Lower, together with the Aulaki within the Turkish sphere) and then south-east to the sea, giving Turkey access to the Hadramant. This will show His Majesty's Government the preposterous and inadmissible nature of Turkish pretensions. They evidently act like the Oriental in a bazaar, who demands 20*l.* for a rug worth 3*l.* in the hope that the European, tired of bargaining, will ultimately give 8*l.* or 10*l.*; and the Ottoman Government cherishes the hope that His Majesty's Government, its patience exhausted by their policy of bluff and obstruction, will finally be induced to compromise and consent to surrender some of the Amir of Dthala's just claims, by drawing a line somewhere between the British and Turkish boundaries marked on the joint map.

Of course underlying all this is their mythical theory, that, in virtue of their partial occupation of the Yemen between 1520 A.D. and 1630 A.D., the whole country down to Aden is Ottoman territory, and they are constantly telling the Arabs here that the British will be forced to withdraw to Aden, where the Sultan "allows" them to have a coaling station.

The Turks again claim to have collected revenue from some Amiri villages, and show entries of the same in their books; but it should be distinctly understood that, in cases where these entries are genuine, they were the proceeds of organized raids of a fitful but most unjustifiable character rather than ordinary and regular administrative collection of revenue, while the villagers in most cases deny having paid such revenue, and have not the usual receipts for taxes paid—a fact which points distinctly to the rather doubtful authenticity of the so-called entries in the Kataba treasury books.

The boundary of the Amiri territory as marked by the green line on the joint map represents the Amir of Dthala's strictly just rights and limits under present circumstances, and without going back to his 1873 boundaries, and constitutes an irreducible minimum, to the complete restoration of which he is entitled, if indeed he might not justly claim a large sum for territory unjustly seized by the Turks, as well as for the revenues of villages from which he has been excluded since the beginning of the Commission, as also for the wanton destruction of the property of his subjects by the Turks and their agents during the last twelve months. It might, perhaps, be well to prefer such a claim and keep it hanging over the heads of the Turk to make him more amenable on other points.

The Amir of Dthala has claims based on grants in writing by the Imams of Sana previous to the Turkish occupation of the Yemen in 1873 (*vide* Nos. 3, 4, and 6, of Appendix I to Commission's Report on Amiri border of the 2nd December last in their No. 180 Secret) to Kataba, Damar, Taiz, Mavia, and other places outside the green line traced on the joint map of the Commission; and if the limits of his jurisdiction were drawn on the same principle as the line claimed by the Turks as Ottoman boundary (blue line on joint map), the Amir's border would be traced as embracing Kataba, Damar, Taiz, Mavia, El Humar, &c.

The Ottoman Government since 1873, proceeding on the claim that Southern Arabia up to Aden is an integral portion of the Ottoman Empire in virtue of their partial occupation which ceased in 1630 A.D., have, in Constantinople and London, lulled the suspicions of and deluded His Majesty's Government by their false assurances of non-interference, while here on the spot, by the show and use of force in the shape of regular troops and guns, combined with intrigue, they have been pursuing a policy of intimidating the minor branches of the nine tribes and thereby disintegrating them, with a view to their gradual but final absorption; and if His Majesty's Government having allowed the Amir during the last twelve months to be forcibly dispossessed by the Turks, under the eyes of the British Commissioners and their large escort, of territory where only a year ago, before the formation of the present Commission, he was free to move and exercise his authority, does not insist on his being reinstated in territory to which, unlike the Turkish claims, his title is based on equity and moderation, he cannot possibly, after the departure of the Commission which has failed to secure him the protection he has a right to expect in virtue of his engagements towards us, be expected to remain loyal to the British connection. He will bow to the apparent inevitable, as a few of his Jebel Jihaf and Shairi dependent villagers have already done to a certain extent, and make the best terms he can with the Turks in the hope that any such arrangement will last his life time, with the result that Turkish intrigue in these parts will greatly increase, and the Ottoman authorities will be emboldened to continue the encroachments which it is the present purpose of His Majesty's Government to put an end to.

Already what has happened has put the Amir of Dthala's loyalty and respect for us to a severe test, and he has frequently, and with justice, declared that his present position is worse than before the arrival of the Demarcation Commission. He has as frequently demanded permission to be allowed to turn out certain recently sent Turkish nominees and agents in Jebel Jihaf and Jebel Mafari villages, and the Commissioners have had considerable difficulty in so far restraining him from attempting to do himself justice.

Moreover, the disastrous effect of any failure of the present Commission to afford him the measure of protection he claims will most certainly react on the neighbouring units of the nine tribes, causing them to waver in their allegiance and friendly attitude towards His Majesty's Government.

The basis of their friendship and loyalty to us is their detestation of Turkish misrule, as seen in the Yemen, and their dread of its extension to their own territory. It is a firm and solid basis; but during the last year's stay of the Commission here, they have seen but the apparent strength of the Turks and the apparent weakness of the British, and the inevitable result of any capitulation of the Amir of Dthala's rights to the Turks would be to sap the foundation of their loyalty and lead them to despise us for our seeming inability to compel the Turks to respect their engagements towards us.

Any attempt to discuss and argue the Amiri question in London or Constantinople on the same lines as such a matter would be discussed with any other European Government, must infallibly lead to a repetition of the same *non possumus* attitude, distortions of facts, and specious pleading of the Ottoman Commissioners here. The discussion will be spun out to interminable lengths with endless reference of every detail to the Sultan for his *Irade*, and such is obviously the object and expectation of the Sultan and his Government, in their hope of procuring a negative result of the present Commission as regards British claims and contentions.

The arguments adduced by the British Commissioners are more to show His Majesty's Government the justice of the Amir of Dthala's claims rather than to enable His Majesty's Government to convince the Ottoman Government of the baselessness of its pretensions, or to induce it to acknowledge the incorrectness of its conduct and its bad faith in these parts during recent years. The Turkish Government is impervious in such matters to logic, reasoning, or facts which tell against them, relying as they do on bluff and a show of force, combined with misstatements and perversions of the truth; and the only possible means of procuring the Amir the restoration of his territory, and thereby securing a sound border line, would seem to be, as advocated by Lord Dufferin in 1886, to bring the necessary pressure to bear either by a show or use of force here and at Hodeidah (*more Italiano*) to compel the Turks to respect the Amir's border as indicated by the green line on the joint map of the Commission.

This ought to be decided on and acted upon without further delay. The patience of the tribes is already sufficiently tried, and the present cool season by land and sea is best suited to military or naval movements, as also to the work of demarcating the boundary of the Amir's territory when once thus re-established.

It seems essential that the Commission should remain here until the Amiri frontier is definitely settled and laid down, both in order to carry out the work of demarcation of the frontier when the Turks shall have been compelled to respect it, and also because its departure from Dthala, without having accomplished anything, would at the present juncture be regarded by all the border tribes as a failure and a climb down for us.

In any case, the departure of the Commission in a north-easterly direction, as at present instructed, is out of the question until the Turkish Government has instructed its Commissioners here, as the Sublime Porte was reported, in Sir H. Elliot's despatch to Foreign Office of the 6th June, 1873,* to have instructed the then Governor-General of the Yemen, Ahmed Eyoub Pasha: (1) to recognize the Yaffai (correct pronunciation is Yafa) as one of the nine tribes, and (2) to start in company with the British Commission from a point near the village of Lahmah-es-Shiub (and not in a south-easterly direction to the south of Jebel Harir, and then down the Wadi Baunu as now preposterously claimed by the Ottoman Commissioners), to demarcate in a north-easterly direction up to the desert the boundary between the country of the Yafa (Yaffai) tribe and the Turkish districts of Marais and Reda.

Instructions to the Ottoman Commissioners in the above sense will be more easily obtained from the Sultan after he has been induced to acquiesce in a proper settlement of the Amiri border.

As the Amiri question is the crux of the whole boundary question, so the Kataba Valley, including Jelilé, is the crux of the Amiri difficulty, while again the evacuation by the Turks of Jelilé means the practical settlement of the Kataba Valley question.

Jelilé is a small village of some forty to fifty houses, within 2 to 3 miles of Dthala, the Amir's residence. The Turks dispossessed him of it some fifteen years back, but only occupied it in force (400 to 500 men with 1 field and 3 mountain guns) at the time of the appointment of the Commission.

In view of Lord Granville's despatch of the 15th May, 1873, declaring that His Majesty's Government would not "tolerate" the interference of the Ottoman authorities

in the territory of the nine tribes, and the instructions sent in consequence to Ahmed Eyoub Pasha, the then Vali of the Yemen (Sir H. Elliot's of the 6th June, 1873), the Ottoman Government before occupying Jelilé ought to have at least consulted His Majesty's Government as to whether we considered it within the Aden hinterland. By not doing so they have put themselves out of Court, as indeed they have done by their whole conduct of stealthy encroachment during the last thirty years.

The road from Yemen to Aden passes by Jelilé, and the Turks have, through their Customs, purposely harassed Aden-bound caravans, with a view to diverting trade from Aden to Mocha and Hodeidah. Their efforts, too, have been attended by considerable success, as shown by the Aden land-borne traffic Returns.

His Majesty's Government, in their despatch of the 18th August last to His Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at Constantinople, said they did not recognize the Ottoman Government's right to occupy Jelilé and the few villages between there and Kataba, and the time has come to insist on their evacuating and restoring to the Amir of Dthala his territory up to the border south of Kataba, as marked on the Commission's map accompanying their letter of the 2nd December.

The forcible ejection of the Turks from Jelilé would be a very easy task, while a show of force here and at Dthala, together with the presence of two or three ships at Hodeidah, coupled with firm language at Constantinople, would probably produce the necessary result.

The Turks have few troops in this part of the Yemen, while I am convinced that their force at Jelilé has no authority to resist, and would at once retire on the application of force, referring the matter to the Vali of the Yemen, who, in turn, would refer it to the Palace—a matter of three to four days by their most rapid means of communication.

Jelilé is $1\frac{3}{4}$ miles from the British camp at Dthala, while Kataba and the Amir's border, immediately south of that town, is from 7 to 8 miles from the British camp; and it should not be forgotten that precisely the same effort and the same amount of pressure is required to make the Turks retire 8 miles as $1\frac{3}{4}$ miles.

The boundary of the Amiri territory might be drawn in accordance with the situation in 1872-73, as shown above, many miles to the north of Kataba, without injustice to the Turks; but as His Majesty's Government has no desire to restore the *status quo* of 1873, and the Amir is reconciled to the loss of rights he has not exercised for many years back, the boundary traced by the British Commission, far from meaning an aggrandizement of the Amir's territory, and an extension of the responsibilities of His Majesty's Government, simply means the abandonment by the Turks of the comparatively recent encroachments, and their respecting the assurances repeatedly given by them not to interfere in the territories of the nine tribes.

The matter cannot give rise to any international question concerning the "integrity of the Ottoman Empire," as it rather involves the integrity of a British dependency somewhat flagrantly violated by the Turkish Government, and the latter's best friends in Europe might find it more conducive to their interests to advise the Sultan to respect his past engagements in the matter.

It seems, then, absolutely necessary that the Sultan should be compelled to recognize the limits of the Amiri territory as indicated by the green line on the Commissioner's map; that any compromise is out of the question, being incompatible with the Amir of Dthala's rights and the future tranquillity of the border, which His Majesty's Government desires as the outcome of the present Commission, and that, after proper notification, the necessary pressure should without delay, and during the present cool season, be applied to the Sublime Porte to compel it to act up to its past engagements not to interfere with Amiri territory as shown by the green line drawn on the joint map of the Commission.

I have written you rather at length because the matter has a certain importance, because an unsatisfactory settlement of the question means further encroachments and the endangering the safety of the entire Aden hinterland, as well as the avoidance of future difficulties in the Hadramant—a district into which the Turks will certainly penetrate if we make any further (beyond those made since 1873) concessions to them in the Amiri or Yaffai districts.

We are here about 80 to 90 miles inland from Aden, and 4,800 feet above sea. The climate is dry and fine; hot by day and cool by night. The country is full of villages, and well cultivated; and one only marvels that during the last sixty years the Aden authorities have not got to know something of it. It is a mixture of Arabia Felix and Arabia Petræa, for it is broken up into massive rock mountain ranges intersected with rich and picturesque valleys.

* In answer to Lord Granville's despatch of the 15th May, 1873.

Remember, if this Turkish nettle is grasped, it won't sting, and their obstructive attitude will collapse all along the line. Further, failure here means a further decrease in our prestige at Constantinople, and *vice versa*.

Yours very sincerely,
(Signed) G. H. FITZMAURICE.

No. 412.

Sir N. O'Connor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received December 30.)

(No. 554.)

My Lord,

Constantinople, December 19, 1902.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 469, Confidential, of the 21st ultimo, I have the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch received from His Majesty's Vice-Consul at Hodeidah, reporting that news has been received of a general insurrection of Arabs in the Province of Assyr, in the Yemaen.

I have, &c.
(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

Inclosure in No. 412.

Vice-Consul Richardson to Consul Devey.

(No. 108.)

Sir,

Hodeidah, November 11, 1902.

I HAVE the honour to report receipt of news of the rumoured general insurrection of Arabs in the Province of Assyr during the past week.

It is reported that General Esoof Pasha, the Military Commander at that sandjak, with a large body of troops, is besieged at Abba.

Eight hundred troops under General Ahmed Pasha from Sana, with a considerable quantity of military stores, left Hodeidah on the 8th instant for Cumfuda for the relief of the besieged garrison.

Other troops are also being moved overland in the direction of Abba.

It is believed that the Arab rising at Assyr is attributed to the undue severity exercised towards the agricultural classes by the Turkish Commander of that sandjak, especially in the matter of collection of taxes levied on their lands.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. A. RICHARDSON.

No. 413.

Sir N. O'Connor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received December 30.)

(No. 555.)

My Lord,

Constantinople, December 21, 1902.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 496 of the 11th November, I have the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch received from the Military Attaché to this Embassy respecting the breakdown of one of the Turkish gun-boats destined for service in the Red Sea.

I have, &c.
(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

Inclosure in No. 413.

Lieutenant-Colonel Maunsell to Sir N. O'Connor.

(No. 39.)

Sir,

Constantinople, December 21, 1902.

I HAVE the honour to report that the gun-boat "Shevket-i-Numa," ordered to proceed a month ago to the Red Sea for the suppression of piracy in those waters, has completely broken down, and has now returned to the dockyard here. She only managed to reach as far as the Dardanelles when her engines, which were triple

expansion, recently provided in the dockyard here, completely broke down, and will take some time to repair. The gun-boat "Mosul," which accompanied her for the same purpose, has managed after several delays to reach Beirut, but has now broken down there, and a tug has been dispatched to tow her back to Constantinople.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. R. MAUNSELL, *Lieutenant-Colonel,*
Military Attaché.

No. 414.

Sir N. O'Connor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received December 30.)

(No. 558.)

My Lord,

Constantinople, December 22, 1902.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith a copy of a despatch received from His Majesty's Vice-Consul at Hodeidah, reporting on the settlement of the recent Turco-Italian incident in the Red Sea.

I have, &c.
(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

Inclosure in No. 414.

Vice Consul Richardson to Consul Devey.

(No. 109.)

Sir,

Hodeidah, November 15, 1902.

I HAVE the honour to report the arrival at this port of the Italian men-of-war "Piemonte" and "Galileo Galilei," from Medi, on the 13th evening instant, and beg to furnish the following information regarding recent events at the latter place, as communicated to me by the Commander of the Italian Red Sea squadron and the Italian Consul.

The cruiser "Piemonte" anchored off Medi on the 26th October, at which port the gun-boats "Caprera" and "Galileo" had arrived previously.

On the 30th October, an armed dhow, attached to the Italian war-ships, was dispatched to capture three dhows belonging to Arab pirates that were lying at anchor in a creek off Medi. The occupants of the Arab dhows abandoned them and escaped ashore.

The Italian dhow was greeted with a heavy rifle fire from the shore by pirates who were concealed among the rocks, compelling it to retreat hastily and join the other ships of war. The Italian loss was one sailor and a black killed. The small Turkish armed transport "Noor-el-Bahi" then opened fire on the Arabs and succeeded in capturing the three pirate craft after sustaining a loss of five wounded.

Five days having elapsed and no pirates being surrendered according to the demands in the ultimatum which the Ottoman Government had accepted, the three Italian men-of-war opened fire on the town at noon on the 31st October. Within three hours the whole town was razed to the ground and was a pile of smoking ruins.

The inhabitants of Medi had abandoned the place prior to the bombardment and escaped to the mountains.

The Turkish forces on shore, numbering between 1,600 and 2,000, under the command of General Rushdi Bey, were encamped in one quarter of Medi and had evidently accomplished nothing since their arrival. The condition of the troops was most miserable; the water supply of the town was cut off by Arabs for some time, and water had to be dispatched from Lohyea and Hodeidah. Sicknes broke out, and cholera and dysentery were very prevalent, rendering about 20 per cent. of the strength ineffective. Three or four sambocks belonging to Arab pirates of Medi, were destroyed by the Italians, and seven or eight others captured and have been taken to Massowah, and will be armed and utilized for patrolling the coast.

It was intended to bombard Khor-el-Uahla and Hodeidah next.

One pirate, originally from Italian territory, was captured and surrendered by the Turks.

The Turkish General, Rushdi Bey, asked for a further period of ten days to enable him to seize the remainder of the pirates demanded, which request was granted.

On the 10th instant, the Italian Commander received a telegram from his Foreign Minister informing him that a final settlement of his Government's demands had been arrived at with the Sublime Porte.

He was ordered to proceed to Hodeidah to receive the indemnity awarded for losses sustained by Italian subjects. The following are the terms of the settlement:—

1. The Ottoman Government promised to take energetic measures towards the suppression of piracies in the Red Sea, and to co-operate with Italy in this matter.
2. The local authorities were to capture and deliver to the Italians at Massowah, within the space of two months, the Chief, Mahomed Gobet, and two other noted pirates, all three of whom came originally from Italian territory to Medi and in conjunction with Arabs of the place organized the recent raids on Nokra and on the Island of Dahlak respectively.
3. The sum of 19,700 dollars Maria Theresa (about 1,900*l.*) was to be paid to Italy for the losses sustained by its subjects in consequence of piracies committed by Arabs from the Yemen.
4. A further sum of 6,500 dollars (650*l.*) to compensate the relatives of the Italian seaman and black, who were killed in the dhow fired on at Medi by pirates.
5. The Porte agreed to recognize as "foreign" sambocks and other sailing-vessels flying the Italian flag and arriving at Ottoman ports in the Red Sea from Massowah and other ports along the African littoral, also to refund all port dues levied on the above-mentioned craft during the past two years in consequence of its non-recognition.

The sum of 26,300 dollars Marie Theresa was duly paid over by the local authorities to the Commander of the "*Piemonte*" last evening.

The Commander called on the Acting Mutessarif, General Hadi Pasha, this morning.

Both Italian war-ships leave this evening for Massowah.

The Italian incident regarding piracies may now be considered as closed to the entire satisfaction of Italy.

It will be observed that the Italian Government seceded from its demand of the two independent and powerful Arab Chiefs of Beni Meraean and Beni Hakhani to the capture and delivery of four pirates who were fugitives from Italian territory, and also of suitable indemnification of losses sustained by its subjects through piracies.

I beg to aver on good authority that the negotiations between the Italian Commander and the Yemen authorities were precipitated to an unpleasant crisis owing to the dilatory and obstructive manner in which they were conducted by the latter.

The Acting Mutessarif of Hodeidah, the Naib and the Vali of the Yemen (since dismissed owing to the present question) are, as I have experienced, impossible officials to treat with, and my opinion has been borne out by the Italian naval authorities.

I have, &c.

(Signed) G. A. RICHARDSON.

No. 415.

Sir N. O'Connor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received December 30.)

(No. 560.)

My Lord,

Constantinople, December 22, 1902.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith a copy of a despatch received from His Majesty's Consul at Jeddah, containing observations on Red Sea piracy.

I have, &c.

(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

Inclosure 1 in No. 415.

Consul Devey to Sir N. O'Connor.

(No. 93.)

Sir,

Jeddah, November 15, 1902.

I have the honour to report the return from Leeth of the gun-boat "*Pera*," which has been cruising during the last ten or twelve days. The pirate vessels, which were rumoured to be about (*vide* my despatch No. 85), were ascertained to be only pearl-fishers which closely resembled the suspected dhows, and no voyages for illicit purposes are believed to be taking place just now.

I beg to submit, for the favour of your Excellency's perusal, some remarks upon those who are "dubbed" the Red Sea pirates—Medi having been destroyed by the Italians a fortnight ago.

Two principal conditions connected with this evil are the state of the mother-of-pearl trade and the increased facilities for profitable trading in prohibited arms. Here it may be premised that the robbers in these waters should be described as smugglers committing casual acts of piracy rather than as professional corsairs. And, whether the contraband be of arms, dollars, tobacco or salt, &c., including the purchase of an occasional slave or two, all the illicit traffickers are more or less in league, and their mutual reliance is only interrupted by a chance personal feud.

As to the first of these two contributory causes, I inclose an extract from this year's Trade Report, and the second may be traced to the practically unchecked importation of ammunition and fire-arms (often obsolete and very inferior) into Jibuti (*cf.* my despatch No. 36 of the 19th May). Both Aden and Massowah prohibit, absolutely I believe, the importation of fire-arms, as is the case in Turkey; nor have I ever heard of guns and revolvers being smuggled from Egypt. Naturally, as the smuggler can procure these with facility and at small expense for himself and his adherents, he becomes far more formidable.

I admit it is easy to make the cynical rejoinder, "Let Turkey take care of herself, and restrain more actively the introduction of contraband into her dominions: France need not do all the world over what England and Italy find to be good, and is under no moral obligation to Turkey."

To conclude with a few words on the Bin Gobeish piracies. This family have just made by trusty oral message some sort of submissive disculpation (from their point of view), showing that they have no rebellious, nor even recalcitrant or refractory, thought whatever against Government, but they confess to motives of revenge on the slayers of their father; they aver, and with truth, that their as other Red Sea sambocks are manned generally with one or two Arabs and five or six slaves (the black riff-raff of the coast villages, ignorant, pugnacious, and brave), and when the latter may sometimes find their supplies of water and simple food running low during a voyage, they are liable to commit misdemeanours—nay, excesses.

They might also complain that their name has been put too prominently forward in respect of recent sea robbery, and that crimes of others have been very unjustly imputed to them. This may well be true, and one may guess the pirates round about Leeth are as bad and certainly not less strong than those from Towil neighbourhood, whilst those located at Medi were worse and vastly more powerful.

Reflections might be let fall on the colossal simplicity and transparency of these lame excuses, and with all respect I only venture to weary your Excellency with them in the design of setting in true light and perspective these "piracies," and because I also feel that the punishment in this instance has been severe and exemplary.

I may add, with regret, that a younger brother of the Bin Gobeish was killed a week or two ago in a dispute with other Bedouins about a sword.

I have, &c.

(Signed) G. P. DEVEY.

Inclosure 2 in No. 415.

Extract from Annual Trade Report for Jeddah for 1902.

ONCE before attention has been drawn to the diminishing coasting trade of local sailing-vessels, dhows, and sambocks. Formerly, there used to be a considerable trade done by them between Suakin and Jeddah in both exports and imports, but this

is now entirely carried by steam. They still ply from this port to Raboc, Leeth, Comfidah, &c., but the trade done is in rather a sickly state from various causes, and fewer cargoes of value seem to be sent; where a petroleum ship, for instance, would formerly refuse to enter difficult ports, and discharge its cargo only at Jeddah and Hodeidah, it may now be observed calling successively at Yembo, Jeddah, Leeth, Comfidah and Loheyah, to finish at Hodeidah. Pilgrims, too, are mainly carried, as is natural, between Jeddah and Yembo by steamer. The samboukyi's chief resource is, therefore, in making heavy charges for the disembarkation of pilgrims and passengers, and for the landing and shipping of cargo.

There are about 240 sailing-vessels registered by the Jeddah Harbour Department, and only one or two new ones are built every year. As to those engaged regularly in pearl fishing there are now only six at Jeddah, twelve at Leeth, nine at Towel, and about fifty of the Jeheinae tribe near Yembo, but the last come here scarcely ever.

The pearl-shell fishery has ever been a chief industry in these waters, and it must be understood that on this coast the most abundant grounds affording the better qualities are to be found from Babel-Mandeb to a point north of the Farasan Islands, and going north the shell occurs less frequently, till some way above Yembo it ceases entirely. I may add that nothing has ever been done to foster, develop, or replenish this occupation as it becomes exhausted by the total depletion of the shallower or more easily reached beds; fishers must go farther and divers dive deeper. I am told that more valuable shells are found at a depth of from 16 to 25 feet than of at from 12 to 20 feet. Divers rarely venture in the Red Sea to a greater depth than 30 feet, unless for some very special purpose and reward, or it may be for what is known as black coral. Unquestionably, the west side of the Red Sea is richer and more productive than the east in shells.

To give an idea of this trade at Jeddah, which was previously to 1880 the chief centre of it, the value has diminished from 50,000*l.* to about 7,000*l.* value annually exported now. The same has gone on at Hodeidah until last year's export was nil. For apparently twenty years ago a very small import duty was charged on the native fishermen (who, quitting this neighbourhood for their yearly eight or nine months' diving voyage, used to return with their cargoes here). The duty was increased to 8 per cent. (as on all imports) in the early eighties, but suddenly, twelve years ago, it was raised to 20 per cent. Thus, already, by 1890, the value had fallen from 50,000*l.* to 10,000*l.* per annum, and since then it is mainly the shells collected in this immediate vicinity that are exported. Almost all boats now take the season's harvest entirely to Massowah, where formerly only a few vessels would occasionally visit Suakin or Massowah, to dispose of a cargo at about the usual rates. The duty has killed the trade, and it would seem that only one resource is open to the authorities, which, under present circumstances, it would be difficult to enforce. The idea, I believe, has already been discussed, viz., to abolish the duty both on shells and pearls entirely, and to substitute in the yet remote future a registration and progressively increasing licence for vessels employed (or a diver's tax per head), say from 5*l.* to 20*l.* on each vessel, to be collected only after the vessel's return from the yearly expedition, whether the season's produce shall be disposed of in Ottoman territory or in foreign.

Such sacrifice might now cost the Public Debt Department of the Government a sum probably not exceeding 1,000*l.* a-year, and during the space of, let us say, ten years, but it would, perhaps, pave the way for a future income of far greater value. It would enrich the coast inhabitants, and bring them into closer relation with city traders, besides involving a closer surveillance over all shipping and re-establishing a valuable trade. I regret my ignorance as to the conditions of pearl fishery obtaining in the Persian Gulf, and in Australian and some Italian and even in Asiatic waters, and how its cultivation is stimulated and aided by art and science. Surely the attention of the Porte might be usefully directed to these points, and an attempt made to improve the state of affairs in the Red Sea.

No. 416.

Sir N. O'Connor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received December 30.)

(No. 561.)

My Lord,

Constantinople, December 23, 1902.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith the copy of a Memorandum by Mr. Block, in which is embodied the translation of a letter from the Grand Vizier to the Minister

for Foreign Affairs, instructing his Excellency to bring to my notice a report of the Acting Vali of the Yemen, relative to the action of an English sambouk in firing on a Turkish sambouk in the neighbourhood of the Island of Yakhissi on the 22nd ultimo.

I have, &c.
(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

Inclosure in No. 416.

Memorandum by Mr. Block.

(No. 357.)

IN conformity with the instructions of the Minister for Foreign Affairs, his Excellency Nouri Bey has communicated to me a letter addressed by the Grand Vizier to the Minister for Foreign Affairs on the 17th instant, which runs as follows:—

"The Acting Vali of the Yemen has brought to the notice of the Minister of the Interior that the sambouk which conveyed Lieutenant-Colonel Dr. Mustafa Bey to Midi, while returning with five Turkish soldiers on board, met, on the 9th (22nd) November last, an English sambouk commanded by Captain The latter, supposing that they had come in contact with a pirate, opened fire upon it in the neighbourhood of the Island of Yakhissi, and behaved in an aggressive manner.

"This occurrence, besides destroying the public confidence which should exist in trading operations, has had a bad effect upon public opinion, and might give rise to retaliatory measures by Ottoman subjects. This would create an incident and a situation contrary to the wishes of the Sovereign, and complications would arise.

"The Minister for Foreign Affairs should, therefore, bring these facts to the notice of the British Ambassador, and express the earnest hope that Sir N. O'Connor will take measures to prevent the repetition of such incidents which may ultimately lead to political complications."

(Signed) ADAM BLOCK.

December 22, 1902.

No. 417.

Admiralty to Foreign Office.—(Received December 30.)

(Confidential.)

Sir,

Admiralty, December 27, 1902.

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to forward herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of a letter from the Commander-in-chief on the East Indies Station, dated the 9th instant, together with a copy of its inclosure, relative to the inadequate character of the measures taken by the Turkish and Persian authorities for the suppression of piracy in the Shat-el-Arab.

I am, &c.
(Signed) C. I. THOMAS.

Inclosure 1 in No. 417.

Rear-Admiral Drury to Admiralty.

(Confidential.)

December 9, 1902.

THIS Report is forwarded in compliance with an order I sent to the Officer Commanding His Majesty's ship "Lapwing," informing him that the Turks and Persians should not be allowed to evade their responsibilities with regard to the suppression of piracy in and at the mouth of the Shat-el-Arab, and that he was to report any lack of zeal on their part.

2. I gather from reports that I have received that piracy during the late date season has practically been stopped; but that end has been attained by the energy and zeal of the officers and men of the "Lapwing" and "Redbreast," and not by the passive action of the Turkish and Persian authorities.

(Signed) CHAS. C. DRURY, *Rear-Admiral,*
Commander-in-chief.

Inclosure 2 in No. 417.

Lieutenant Armstrong to Brigadier-General Maitland.

Sir, "Lapwing," at Bussorah, October 21, 1902.
IN compliance with Commander-in-chief's Memorandum of the 21st August, I have the honour to report that I do not consider either the Turkish or Persian authorities are taking sufficient measures for the suppression of piracy in their territories.

2. The Turkish authorities have two gun-boats in the river, the "Kilid-el-Bahr," which has not moved from Bussorah during the whole time that I have been in the river, and the "Zohaf," which has been anchored to the southward of Dirwasir Island, and has not moved from there.

3. The "Zohaf" may do some little good by preventing piracies taking place close to where she is anchored, but considering that a large armed expedition started from Dura, only a few miles below where she is lying, her presence cannot have much of a deterrent effect, except in her immediate vicinity, and for the same reason the Turkish guards on their banks of the river appear to be equally impotent.

4. The Sheikh of Mohammerah has an armed dhow with two bellams anchored off the Persian shore at the entrance of the river, and these probably also do some little good by affording a safe anchorage for the trading dhows at night when they are on their way in, but as a means of preventing piracy anywhere except on the dhows anchored close to them they are quite useless.

5. The obstruction I have met with from the Turkish authorities in trying to bring the men responsible for the expedition which I encountered to justice, leads me to suppose that some of the Turkish officials at least connived at it, and there is no doubt that they are trying to shield the guilty persons, as I think there is no doubt that this expedition was chiefly composed of the bad characters in the river, the persons who generally commit the acts of piracy. I can hardly suppose that the Turkish authorities are genuine in their attempts to clear the river of these pests.

6. I do not consider the Sheikh of Mohammerah is doing what he can in this matter, and it is quite impossible to stop the piracy unless the Turkish and Persian authorities will make some small endeavour to bring to justice and adequately punish the Arabs who are known to engage in this pursuit whenever a suitable opportunity occurs.

In my opinion the only way to stop the piracy effectually is with armed steam-boats patrolling the river and bar at uncertain times, and kept fairly constantly on the move.

8. By keeping our ships on the move in the river, and outside the bar and banks at night, I have been able to prevent any piracy taking place up to the present; but pulling-boats cannot catch the sailing dhows and bellams if there is any breeze, and there are numerous stretches of banks round the mouths of the Shat-el-Arab and Bahmisher Rivers where the ship cannot go, and where nothing or very little can be done to prevent piracy without the use of fairly large steam-boats.

9. If, instead of anchoring ships and armed dhows at fixed points, the Turkish and Persian authorities were to provide a few of these steam-boats and really made a genuine attempt, the piracy could be entirely stopped with the greatest of ease.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. G. ARMSTRONG,
Lieutenant-Commander.

No. 418.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received December 30.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Lord George Hamilton, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of a telegram to the Viceroy, dated the 26th December, relative to the Seistan boundary question.

India Office, December 30, 1902.

Inclosure in No. 415.

Lord G. Hamilton to Government of India.

(Telegraphic.) P.

India Office, December 26, 1902.

AS regards the Seistan boundary question, His Majesty's Government approve the proposal made in the last two paragraphs of your telegram of the 19th December to accept at once the offer of the Ameer, and to instruct Major McMahon to start. The Persian Government will be informed of these arrangements by Sir A. Hardinge, to whom the necessary instructions have been sent.

No. 419.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received December 30.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Lord George Hamilton, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of a telegram to the Viceroy, dated the 22nd December, relative to the establishment of administrative units in the Persian Gulf by the Turkish Government.

India Office, December 30, 1902.

Inclosure in No. 419.

Lord G. Hamilton to Government of India.

(Telegraphic.) P.

India Office, December 30, 1902.

SEMI-OFFICIAL newspaper "Ikdam" is stated by Sir N. O'Connor to have announced, in its issue of the 27th November, that the Turkish Government intends to establish small administrative units at Zobara, Dikre, Adide, and Jezireh-ul-Amair, the two latter being, presumably, same as El Odeid and Abu Ali Island respectively. O'Connor says that, though for political reasons protest may be advisable, he does not expect, unless we are prepared to go further, that it would have any result; and he fears that, Turkish feeling having been already excited about Aden delimitation and Koweit, a protest will be considerably resented. See my despatch of the 5th September last. Please let me know your views.

No. 420.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received December 30.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Lord George Hamilton, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, decypher of a telegram from the Resident, Aden, dated the 29th December, relative to the Yaffai subsidy.

India Office, December 30, 1902.

Inclosure in No. 420.

Resident, Aden, to Lord G. Hamilton.

(Telegraphic.) P.

December 29, 1902.

WITH reference to the subsidy to the Upper Yaffai, which formed the subject of my telegram of the 23rd instant, I am of opinion, after consultation with Wahab, that the demands of the tribe will probably be met by an expenditure of 10,000 rupees. So long, however, as the Commission are debarred from direct access to the Yaffai country by the occupation of Jalila by the Turks, and their claim to the Shairi and Shaibi sub-tribes, any precise information as to the state of feeling in the Yaffai tribe or the comparative importance and influence of those Chiefs who have hitherto been in communication

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with the Commission is very difficult to obtain. The precise distribution and amount of the subsidy can only be finally determined after the Commission has visited Yaffai territory; and this cannot be arranged while the present situation in the Amiri country continues.

I would suggest that an assurance be given to the Sheikhs, when they visit the Commission, that the Yaffai are recognized by the Government as one of the nine tribes, and that no occupation by Turkey of country proved to belong to Yaffai will be permitted.

No. 421.

Sir A. Hardinge to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received December 30.)

(No. 83.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Tehran, December 30, 1902.

HELMUND Arbitration: your Lordship's telegram No. 69 of the 24th December. In conversation to-day the Grand Vizier admitted confidentially that the real reason for Persia's desire to back out of the arbitration was the attitude of Russia. He said that the Shah had been asked by the Russian Minister to allow the Persian Commissioner to be accompanied by a Russian Delegate, and that, without consulting him, His Majesty had replied that he saw no objection to the proposal. M. Vlassow now insisted on His Highness giving effect to what he called the Shah's pledge, and, feeling sure that His Majesty's Government would demur to this, he preferred to shelve the arbitration altogether, as did also His Majesty.

His course, I replied, was an easy one. Without first obtaining our consent, the Persian Government could not modify Article VI of the Anglo-Persian Treaty of 1857. The most it could do was to promise the Russians to ask us whether we had any objections to their proposals, and to inform them of our reply if we did object, as I felt certain we should, and of Persia's obligations under the Treaty.

His Highness replied that, after his audience with the Shah to-morrow, he would communicate to me officially the Russian proposal. On receipt of this communication I propose replying that we cannot admit intervention in any form on the part of Russia, and that the Treaty contains no justification for such a proposal.

I think that the Russian Consul in Seistan will probably be instructed to proceed to the spot at which our Commissioners meet to "watch the proceedings" and make mischief, even if Persia refuses to permit the co-operation of a Russian Delegate in the arbitration. I would, therefore, suggest the advisability of arranging that the place of meeting should be in Afghan territory, in order to prevent the Russian Consul from being present.

No. 422.

Sir A. Hardinge to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received December 30.)

(No. 84.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Tehran, December 29, 1902.

I LEARN that it is the intention of the Shah to proceed to Khorassan this spring on a pilgrimage to Meshed. The plan is opposed by the Grand Vizier on grounds of expense, as the Treasury is empty. He has had to yield at present, though he may succeed in preventing it when the time comes.

His Highness declares that he will not contract a new loan, which the carrying out of His Majesty's intention will probably render necessary. He will try to obtain small advances from the banks on account, and I hope that the Imperial Bank may be enabled to assist him if necessary. I hear from other sources that the Russians, whom he has sounded on the subject, refuse to give another loan.

No. 423.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir A. Hardinge.

(No. 16. Commercial.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Foreign Office, December 30, 1902.

YOUR telegram of the 23rd instant, on the subject of the new Persian Tariff, was repeated to His Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople, and I am repeating to you the reply I have received from his Excellency.

Your despatch No. 15, Commercial, of the 5th instant has just been received in this Department, but I should like to have your observations on Sir N. O'Connor's suggestions before finally considering the instructions to be given him.

No. 424.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received December 31.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Lord George Hamilton, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copies of telegrams relative to the Aden delimitation.

India Office, December 29, 1902.

Inclosure 1 in No. 424.

Government of India to Lord G. Hamilton.

(Telegraphic.)

December 25, 1902.

WAHAB wires local guns at Aden on wheels useless owing to nature country, and urges strongly British mountain battery from India being sent to Aden for Dthali column. Should we comply?

Inclosure 2 in No. 424.

Lord G. Hamilton to the Government of India.

(Telegraphic.)

India Office, December 28, 1902.

ADEN delimitation. Yours 25th December.

I approve addition of a British mountain battery to the Dthali column. Inform me of the date of its arrival at Aden by telegraph.

No. 425.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir A. Hardinge.

(No. 72.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Foreign Office, December 31, 1903.

PERSO-AFGHAN frontier.

The reply which you propose to return to the Grand Vizier's official communication of Russian proposal reported in your telegram No. 83 of the 29th December has my approval.

The Viceroy of India will repeat to you a telegram which the Secretary of State for India is sending to him in the same sense.

No. 426.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir C. Scott.

(No. 332.)

Sir,

Foreign Office, December 31, 1902.

THE Russian Chargé d'Affaires told me to-day that he was instructed to make the following statement to me :—

The Russian Government were informed that the British Commission which was about to proceed to Persian Baluchistan would be accompanied by a considerable body of troops commanded by several officers.

The Russian Government felt some uneasiness as to the effect which might be produced on the Persian population by this display of force, which seemed to them unnecessary. They hoped, therefore, that His Majesty's Government would see no objection to reducing the escort, and might even decide upon abandoning the Commission, in view of recent intelligence showing that there is abundance of water in Seistan, partly due to the large rainfall.

Baron Gravenitz added that the Russian Government were informed that the escort which was to accompany the British Commission was to consist of 500 infantry, a squadron of cavalry, and one gun, to say nothing of numerous camp followers, the whole requiring transport to the extent of 2,000 camels.

I told Baron Gravenitz that I had no information as to the strength of Colonel McMahon's escort, but that I was convinced that it was not larger than the circumstances of the case required.

The Government of India were the best judges of the strength which was necessary in order to insure the safety of the Commission, and there would be much greater risk of complications if it were to be accompanied by an escort of insufficient strength, and, therefore, unable to insure its safety in the remote and lawless country which it would have to traverse.

I could therefore hold out no hope whatever of a reduction in its strength, nor were we at all likely to abandon altogether the idea of sending the proposed Commission. It was quite true that the scarcity of water had for the moment disappeared, but it might occur again, and it was of the utmost importance that the question should be satisfactorily settled.

Having made these observations, I told Baron Gravenitz that I was quite unable to admit that the Russian Government had any interest in the matter nor any right to question the arrangements which we were making for the settlement of the dispute. We were taking action in accordance with terms of a Treaty which imposed upon us the duty of arbitration in such cases, and we could not admit that Russia had any right of intervening with regard to them. What, I asked him, would the Russian Government say if we were to arrogate to ourselves a similar right of intervention in the case of the adjustment of a difficulty upon the Russo-Persian frontier?

Baron Gravenitz replied that both Powers had interests in Persia, and that neither of us could be indifferent to any occurrences likely to lead to serious disturbances within Persian territory.

I said that it was quite true that we were both under obligations to respect the integrity and independence of Persia, but that I could not for a moment admit that our action in regard to the Helmund dispute could be interpreted as threatening either the integrity or independence of Persia. We were, on the contrary, acting with the concurrence of the Persian Government and for their interests, and I had, therefore, felt bound to tell him distinctly that his remonstrance seemed to me quite out of order.

I am, &c.

(Signed) LANSDOWNE.